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The  
Letter Book of Jacob Weiss

Deputy Quartermaster General  
of the  
Revolution

MELVILLE J. BOYER, *Editor*

PROCEEDINGS

of the

Lehigh County Historical Society

V. 21

*Volume Twenty-One*



ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

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# PREFACE

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PRESS OF  
H. RAY HAAS & CO.  
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# PREFACE

In this issue of its Proceedings, the Lehigh County Historical Society is pleased to present a letter book kept by Jacob Weiss, a deputy quartermaster general in the patriot forces during the American Revolutionary War. Edited by Mr. Melville J. Boyer, whose contributions to the Society's publications are widely known and respected, these letters will have an appeal to those interested in local and national history.

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Mr. Boyer has prepared an excellent introduction to the Weiss Letter Book. The reader will find here the historical setting amply described. A reading of this statement and the adjoining letters provide a rewarding historical experience.

VICTOR L. JOHNSON

Muhlenberg College





## P R E F A C E

In this issue of its Proceedings, the Lehigh County Historical Society is pleased to present a letter book kept by Jacob Weiss, a deputy quartermaster general in the patriot forces during the American Revolutionary War. Edited by Mr. Melville J. Boyer, whose contributions to the Society's publications are widely known and respected, these letters will have an appeal to those interested in local and national history alike.

Residents of Lehigh County will find here ample opportunity to rejoice in the services provided the American cause by the people and the resources of this area. The over-all significance of these letters, however, transcends their value as repositories of local lore. They demonstrate again the difficulty with which the services of supply maintained the army in the field. Here are revealing allusions to the penalties of inadequate departmental organization; to the consequences of jurisdictional disputes, questionable practices, and indifference and delay on the part of public personnel. To the conscientious official like Jacob Weiss, coping daily with problems such as these was a harrowing experience. Nevertheless, he sought his objectives with a steadfastness of purpose that must have shamed the less dedicated of that age.

Weiss's activities, quite apart from his military services, afford us an interesting example of early American business enterprise. This is disclosed in an account book of his which the Society recently acquired. According to this record, Weiss took leave of his military duties upon the cessation of hostilities and established a profitable business on the Lehigh River north of the Blue Mountain. Undoubtedly the experience he gained and the associations he formed while a member of the quartermaster department contributed to the success of this venture. Here we have a pattern of development of great significance to historians interested in our entrepreneurial origins. Recently a great deal of attention has been given this subject.

Mr. Boyer has prepared an excellent introduction to the Weiss Letter Book. The reader will find here the historical setting amply described. A reading of this statement and the adjoining letters provide a rewarding historical experience.

Muhlenberg College

VICTOR L. JOHNSON





*Introduction*

THE WEISS LETTER BOOK



## INTRODUCTION

The two hundred and sixty-seven letters which are published here for the first time were entered in the letter book which Jacob Weiss, deputy quartermaster general, carried with him for about three and a half years during the Revolutionary War. The Lehigh County Historical Society owns the original letter book and treasures it among its most interesting manuscripts.

There is reason to believe that Colonel Weiss kept a second book of letters he wrote while in his country's service and while he served his native state, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as assistant deputy quartermaster. He closed up the business of his department in 1783 and retired from the service. In our letter book the last letter is dated December 8, 1781, and his retirement in 1783 suggests that he may have entered his correspondence for the intervening period in another ledger. Our book is in ledger form on very fine handmade paper.

Why should the Lehigh County Historical Society publish these letters? Their content is a repetition of orders to get military stores on their way, of pleas for dispatch in their allocation, of complaints as to their quality, and of insistence on proper records and inventories. Have they any value of historical reference to Northampton County, or to the then important towns, Allentown, Bethlehem and Easton? Lehigh County had not been erected out of the original Northampton County until 1812.

The letters are date-lined from eight different camps during the war, including Valley Forge, Middlebrook and Morristown, where the continental army spent three successive winters.

The answer to the above questions lies in the intrinsic historical value of over ninety letters containing hitherto unknown facts bearing on the services of many persons residing in Northampton County and within the confines of our present Lehigh County. Between the period September 13, 1780, and December 8, 1781, ninety-two letters were written by Weiss from Easton, the largest number written from any one point. The second largest number were written two years earlier from Camp Middlebrook. It is these Easton letters which present us with local aspects of the great problem of foraging, of flour supplies, and of other stores expected for war needs from our locality, particularly from the farmers of Lynn and Saucon who wintered the army's horses. Persons of local prominence at the time are mentioned; wagoners and wagon-masters, John and Anthony Lerch who supplied various stores, and Lawrence Good (Lorenz Guth), who lived along the Jordan creek north of Allentown. In the list of stores receipted by Weiss





from these men we note such items as harness, bridles, collars, hames, belly bands, wagon whips, horse shoes, and feeding troughs. From Colonel David Deshler, with whom much correspondence was had, Weiss certified receipt of chopped rye, buckwheat, oats, cut straw, and flour.

Although about sixty-five percent. of the letters contain no direct reference to our County and deal with the quartermaster's problems in widely remote areas, such as New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut, they serve to define the man who wrote them, his devotion to duty, his painstaking efforts to supply the needs of the men in the field, his concern for their comfort, his honesty in all transactions, and the boldness and beauty of his pen. These characteristics define the man who moved his young family to Easton prior to the British capture of Philadelphia. He was twenty-seven years of age at the time, his wife twenty-three, and the eldest of his four children was only four.<sup>1</sup>

### HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND

The parents of our distinguished quartermaster general were John Jacob Weiss, born July 20, 1721, and Rebecca Cock (Cox), born in Passyunk Township, Philadelphia County, November 23, 1725. They were married October 13, 1746. She was of Swedish descent. Her parents were members of the Swedish Lutheran Church. John Jacob arrived in 1740 on the ship *Lydia* (from Rotterdam), Captain Allen. He came from Wuerttemberg, Germany; was a physician, well educated, a circumstance which explains the son's literary and accounting talents. Nine years after John Jacob's arrival, on the eighth of January, 1749, they joined the Moravian Church in Philadelphia. He died September 22, 1788, and was buried in the First Moravian Churchyard, Philadelphia. His wife died July 3, 1808. Since the scope of our interest here precludes a genealogical record of the family, it is sufficient to note that they had eleven children, of whom only two were married: Jacob, the deputy quartermaster general, who married March 26, 1772, Elizabeth Robinson; and Mary, who married Charles Cist, the Philadelphia printer and later joint entrepreneur, with others, of the pioneer Panther Valley coal industry. Records of the births, marriages and deaths of the children of John Jacob Weiss and his wife may be found in the church book of the First Moravian Church in Philadelphia. Of these Jacob was born in Philadelphia, August 21, 1750 (old style calendar). The date on the cemetery tombstone at Weissport, Carbon County, Pennsylvania, reads "September 1st, A.D. 1750," which is the new style calendar correction.

The wife of our distinguished Revolutionary War letter writer was, as mentioned above, Elizabeth, the daughter of Francis and

<sup>1</sup> See footnote page 84.





Elizabeth Chaplin Robinson, born March 6, 1754, baptized April 13, 1754, by Rev. William Sturgeon, assistant to Rev. Robert Jenny, rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia. Mrs. Robinson had been married three times: first, April 23, 1750, to Thomas Archdale, who died the following year; second, 1752, to Francis Robinson, who died in 1758; and third, December 19, 1763, to George Kemble, who died in 1774. Jacob's mother-in-law, as Mrs. George Kemble then, died January 12, 1789, at Nazareth, Pennsylvania.<sup>2</sup>

Among the Philadelphians, who experienced the great excitement over the announcement that the British in September 1777 were on their way to occupy their city, was Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Weiss, who was out of town at the time with the Continental army. The American army had suffered defeat at Chadd's Ford and on the Brandywine. The British had moved up to the very outskirts of the city. Every patriot hastened to move his family out of the enemy's hands. But wagons and coaches were to be had only at inflationary prices. Tories in the city were happy, but for the Whigs there was anxiety and confusion. Mrs. Weiss managed to hire a team and with her four children, the family wearing apparel, and a few articles of furniture, started for Bristol. There she found no room in the inn. It had been converted into a hospital for the wounded soldiers.<sup>3</sup> From Bristol a few weeks later Weiss moved his family to Easton, Pennsylvania.

### PRELUDE TO WEISS'S SERVICE

To understand the content of the many letters which Weiss wrote during his years of service while he was absent from his family it may serve us well to review the problems confronting the quartermaster department. These were new problems for a young nation not yet politically organized to handle in an inter-state co-ordinated manner the machinery of supply for war's demands nor to devise a tax program to finance the same. The quartermaster department during the Revolution was beset with many vexing problems. Washington had appointed (August 14, 1775) Thomas Mifflin, who after the war became Pennsylvania's first governor under the State Constitution of 1790, to head it. But Mifflin resigned in June 1776, to become a brigadier-general. On Washington's request the following October, Congress re-appointed him. After the Battle of Trenton, Mifflin again hoped to be relieved of the job because of the heavy duties the office entailed. After the British had taken Philadelphia and Congress had fled to York, Mifflin once more resigned on October 8, 1777. Washington was much displeased. Congress refused at first to accept the resignation but on March 2, 1778, appointed General Nathanael Greene to the post. For reasons we can not enter into here, Congress ordered

<sup>2</sup> From the family records supplied by Mrs. Fred Kutz, a descendant.

<sup>3</sup> Mathews & Hungerford; *History of the Counties of Lehigh and Carbon*, 1884.



an inquiry into the conduct of Mifflin's department with a threat of court martial should any discrepancies appear. No formal inquiry was however made and subsequently Congress appropriated large sums of money while Greene was Quartermaster General to enable Mifflin to settle his accounts. Mifflin's trials over accounts, receipts, and payments — a distasteful job to him — are reflected in Weiss's letters.

"Immediately after the battle of Brandywine (fought September 11, 1777), the distressed situation of the army had been represented to Congress. That body had recommended to the executive of Pennsylvania, to appoint discreet persons to take possession of any linens, blankets and other woollens, shoes, spirits, and other necessities, for the use of the army, which might be found in any stores or warehouses, in the city of Philadelphia; giving a certificate expressing the quantity and value of the goods so taken, which goods were to be conveyed to a place of safety."<sup>4</sup>

This measure was deemed too strong for the executive and Washington's powers as commander-in-chief were called upon. To Hamilton, to whom had been assigned the task, Washington wrote: "Your own prudence will point out the least exceptional means to be pursued; but remember, delicacy and strict adherence to the ordinary mode of application, must give place to our necessities. We must if possible accomodate the soldiers with such articles as they stand in need of, or we shall have just reason to apprehend the most injurious and alarming consequences from the approaching season." This "very active officer" (Hamilton) was not successful in obtaining a supply in any degree adequate to the "pressing and increasing wants of the army."

"Much of the sufferings of the army was attributed to neglect in the quartermaster's department, which, notwithstanding the repeated remonstrances of the commander-in-chief, had long been permitted to remain without a head. This subject was early taken up by the committee (of Congress), and proper representations made respecting it."<sup>5</sup>

That committee had stressed the importance of the quartermaster department in a letter to the Congress: "The influence of this office is so diffusive through every part of your military system, that neither the wisdom of arrangement, the spirit of enterprise, or favourable opportunity, will be of any avail, if this great wheel in the machine stops, or moves heavily . . . It is our duty, sir, to inform you, it is not our intention to censure (those gentlemen who conducted it); and be assured nothing but a sense of the obligation we are under to postpone all other considerations to the public safety, could induce us to perform the unpleasing task.

<sup>4</sup> Marshall, *The Life of George Washington*, III, 149 (1805).

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* page 328.





We find, sir, the property of the continent dispersed over the whole country; not an encampment, route of the army, or considerable road, but abounds with waggons, left to the mercy of the weather, and the will of the inhabitants; large quantities of intrenching tools have, in like manner, been left in various hands, under no other security that we can learn, than the honesty of those who have them in possession. No less than three thousand spades and shovels, and the like number of tomahawks, have lately been discovered and collected in the vicinity of the camp . . . In the same way, a quantity of tents, and tent cloth, after having lain a whole summer in a farmer's barn, and unknown to the officer of the department, was lately discovered, and brought to camp by a special order from the general . . . .

"The want of waggons and horses for the ordinary, as well as extraordinary occasions of the army, presses upon us, if possible, with equal force; almost every species of camp transportation is now performed by men, who without a murmur, patiently yoke themselves to little carriages of their own making, or load their wood and provisions on their backs . . . .

" . . . Permit us to say that a moment's time should not be lost in placing a man of approved abilities, and extensive capacity at the head of the department, who will restore it to some degree of order and regularity, whose provident care will immediately relieve the present wants of the army, and extend itself to those which must be satisfied, before we can expect vigour, enterprise, or success. When your committee reflect upon the increased difficulties of procuring waggons, horses, tents, and the numerous train of articles dependent on this office, without which your army cannot even move; they feel the greatest anxiety lest the utmost skill, diligence, and address, will prove ineffectual to satisfy the growing demand." <sup>6</sup>

In a circular letter General Washington, while at Valley Forge, had expressed the urgency to supply the army: "The care and attention of the states will, I flatter myself, be in a most particular manner directed to the supply of shoes, stockings, and blankets; as the expenditure of those articles is, from the common operations and accidents of war, far greater than of any others." He pointed out that the "exertions of the states cannot be too great, too vigorous in this interesting work, and we shall never have a fair and just prospect of success, until our troops (officers and soldiers) shall be better provided for, than they are, or have been."

To Henry Laurens, president of the Congress, he complained: "Since the month of July (1777), we have had no assistance from the quartermaster general and to want of assistance from this

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\* Ibid. From extract, note number VII to page 328.





department, the commissary general<sup>7</sup> charges great part of his deficiency." (Quoted by Marshall, p. 312).

Congress early in the war had adopted measures for the importation of clothes. A clothier-general had also been appointed with deputies in the several states, but his collections were very inadequate. "The state governments had been earnestly applied to for an immediate supply, and extensive powers over individual property had been given to the commander-in-chief; but the exercise of these powers was beyond measure odious, and the subject on which they could act, had been greatly diminished by the unfortunate non-importation agreements which preceded the war; by the immense difficulties attending commerce since its commencement; by the loss of several of the great seaport towns, which were in possession of the enemy; and by the individual consumption of such articles as were in the country . . . a consumption far exceeding the supply which could be drawn from domestic manufactures."<sup>8</sup>

Marshall noted the great need for adequate clothes and blankets had existed even prior to the army's moving to Valley Forge in December 1777. "The season was now becoming so extremely severe," he wrote, "that it was impossible for an army neither well clothed, nor sufficiently supplied with blankets, longer to keep the field in tents." With some defections among the suppliers of stores to the north of Philadelphia, who preferred to sell for hard money to the British in Philadelphia, John Marshall had this eloquent invective to insert into his *Life of George Washington*: "In a desert which supplies not the means of subsistence, or in a garrison where food is unattainable, courage, patriotism, and habits of discipline, enable the soldier, in a degree which astonishes the world, to conquer wants which would be invincible. But to perish in a country abounding with provisions, requires something more than fortitude; nor can soldiers readily comprehend any combination of causes, unless there be some sudden and apparent accident, which in such a situation may withhold from them their usual supplies."

### "'TIS ENOUGH TO PUZZLE A PRIEST"

With the above prelude to the patriotic service rendered by Weiss in which we quoted from John Marshall, who wrote so eloquently of the problems of the quartermaster department only a decade after the conclusion of the war, we may more easily comprehend the problems Weiss confronted. Though the body of the letters reproduced here eloquently reveal the inefficiencies of the service and the inadequacy of just about everything the army

<sup>7</sup> For an excellent dissertation on the commissary department, see Johnson, Victor L., *The Administration of the American Commissariat During the Revolutionary War*, Phila., 1941.

<sup>8</sup> Marshall, *op cit.*, III, 315 (1805)



needed, the following introductory excerpts from the two hundred and sixty-seven letters may highlight for us the interesting correspondence which follows.

"You must not wonder at the different Orders that may come from me . . . , 'tis enough to puzzle a Priest to know what an Army is constantly wanting . . . ," he wrote June 15, 1779, from Middlebrook to Colonel Mitchell. By this time he had already served over a year as deputy quartermaster general. His service, according to his own statement in a letter (July 23, 1779), began in May, 1778. On December 18, 1778, to Colonel Udney Hay, he wrote: "Captain Low is desirous of making a Settlement with his Men and wants to know the price of the Cloathing that he may deduct it out of their Pay." Five weeks later he complained to Colonel Mitchell: "The Price of the Cloathing I am continually pestered about, do be so good as to let me know by the next Opportunity and you'l much oblige." On April 2 (two more months later) he still had no prices: "Unless I am informed ere long, expect we shall lose the pay of sundry Cloathing that has been drawn by men not entitled, any further than for pay . . ." The same delay in procurement is noted in his letter of December 16, 1778, when he asked Colonel Abeel for "a good Stove with pipes agreeable to Dimensions." On the 20th following, this time to Colonel Mitchell, he again asks for "the Stove in particular of which last should be glad to know if can be sent." Three days later he begged again that one be sent. His annoyance at delay prompted him to write forcefully, as in his letter to Colonel Mitchell written January 26, 1779: "Major Forsythe informs me he wrote you (or Colo. Cox) some time past to send to Camp some Harness Makers and a Barrell or two of Oyl, neither of which have yet arrived. I must therefore request their being sent as quick as possible as its high time something should be done with the Harness delivered into Store from Teams broke up." Major supplies and stores as well as miscellaneous items received his attention. The delay in forwarding to him twelve dozen papers of ink powder may be noted in the letter book. His letters are entered in a fainter and fainter penmanship. Ten weeks later, May 7, 1779, he evidently received the ink powder. His letter of that date is much more legible, the writing heavier and darker.

Theft and unauthorized issues of army supplies annoyed him as much as their delay. He called it a "piece of villiany" when seven boxes of clothing were pilfered in part en route between "Morris Town" and Fish Kill, and hoped Cornelius Ten Broeck "may make a Discovery of" it. John Marshall had called the army a "fluctuating army." "The soldiers carried off arms and blankets which had been unavoidably delivered to them, to be used while in camp, and thus wasted in advance, the military stores collected for the ensuing campaign."<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 66.





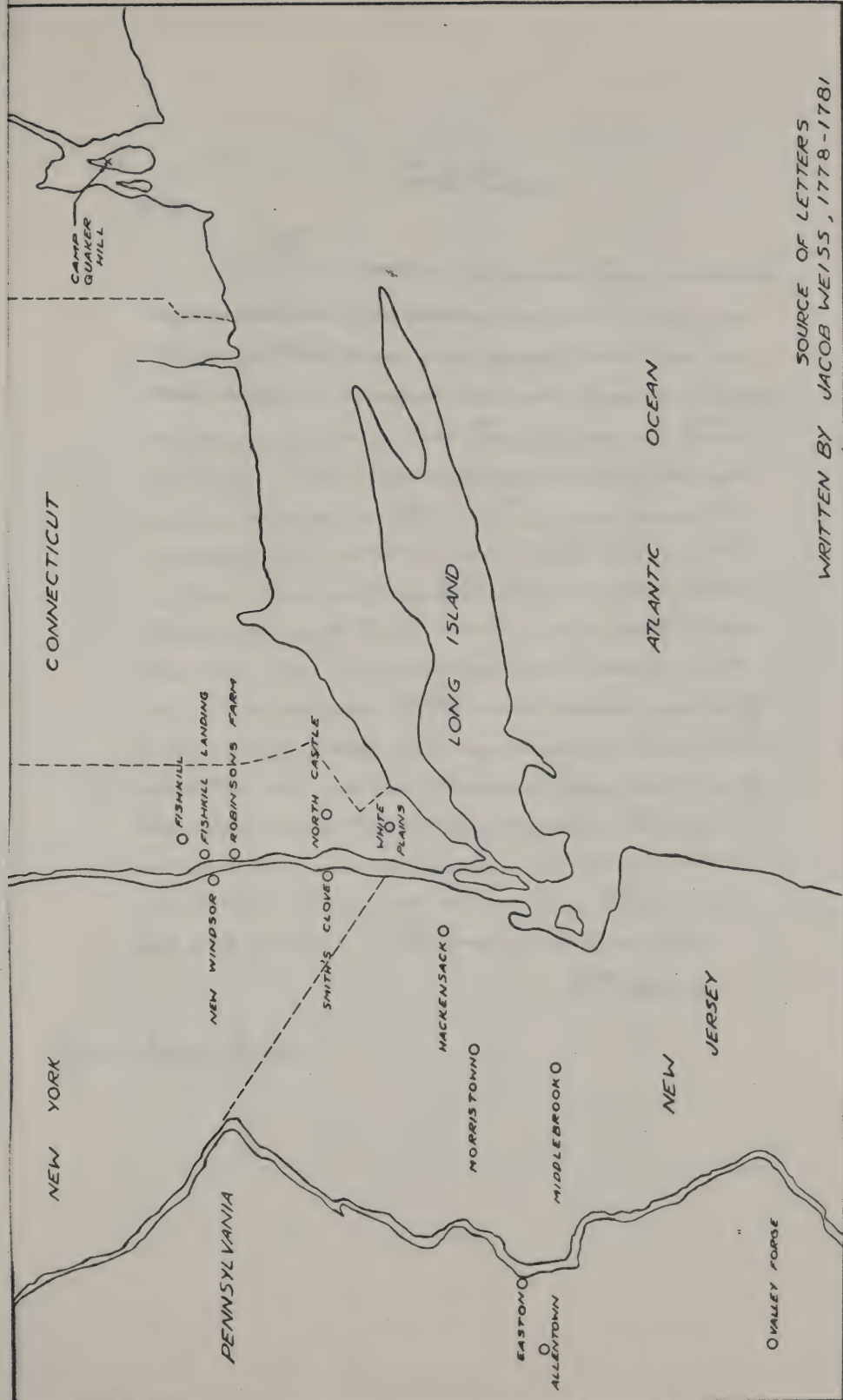


## WORN DOWN PUBLIC HORSES

For us who reside today in Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, and Bucks counties, those letters, and there are many of them, that deal with Weiss's solicitude for the many worn down horses of the Continental army, have a special interest. Their content alone would justify their publication. Our local historians were not unaware of the great service of our pioneer farmers, but nowhere have the intimate details of the wintering of worn out horses or their sales at public vendues in our locality been recorded as related by Weiss in his correspondence. "You are not to let your Men or Horses suffer, by any means," he wrote to William Stewart, wagon master. "Should there be any disturbances by the savages you will please to have the horses taken to places of safety," was his instruction to Captain Drake in his letter from Easton, March 21, 1781.

"... I have been this day engaged in the sale of the worn down public horses sent to this county [Northampton] and have about 16 still on hand, would only make mention that I purpose holding another vendue on the 25 inst. [November, 1780] to get rid of those remaining & not worth wintering, and if the QM Genl. has any in Camp he would wish to have disposed of it would be well to have them sent in time for that purpose..." On December 5, 1780, Lewis Knouse was instructed to deliver forty horses to John Lerch in Allen Township. "... You will be very carefull not to drive them fast, ... [and] when you are about to feed them it must be with hay only and that given very spairingly at a time or they will be all knock'd up." On the same date he wrote to Paul Reisor that he was to take horses to Colonel Philip Boehm in Lower Saucon and that the same care be taken lest they "be all knock'd up." The latter, Colonel Boehm, he hoped would be careful to send advertisements, on the different roads respecting the sale of horses. To Frederick "Leinback" he sent twenty horses and inquired whether more might be billited in Upper Milford "without making to [sic] great a stress upon the Farmers." For them he also expressed his concern when he wrote to William McCalla in Bucks County: "... I could wish the people were paid for keeping the horses while under the direction of Mr. Thomas and Foulk ... I suppose that two dollars for a horse p. month in real specie will be as near the mark as the Resolves of Congress will allow for Forage to be furnished. Indeed I should think that ten shillings p. month might be sufficient where horses have not been carefully fed..." Weiss permitted himself justifiable self-commendation when on December 23, 1780, he wrote, first, to Colonel Samuel Miles, deputy quartermaster, "There has been a considerable number of public horses arriv'd at this place [Easton] within these three weeks past, very much reduced, some are sent on to Berks, some to Maxatany,





SOURCE OF LETTERS  
WRITTEN BY JACOB WEISS, 1778-1781





Sir,

Easton 1<sup>st</sup> May 1781.

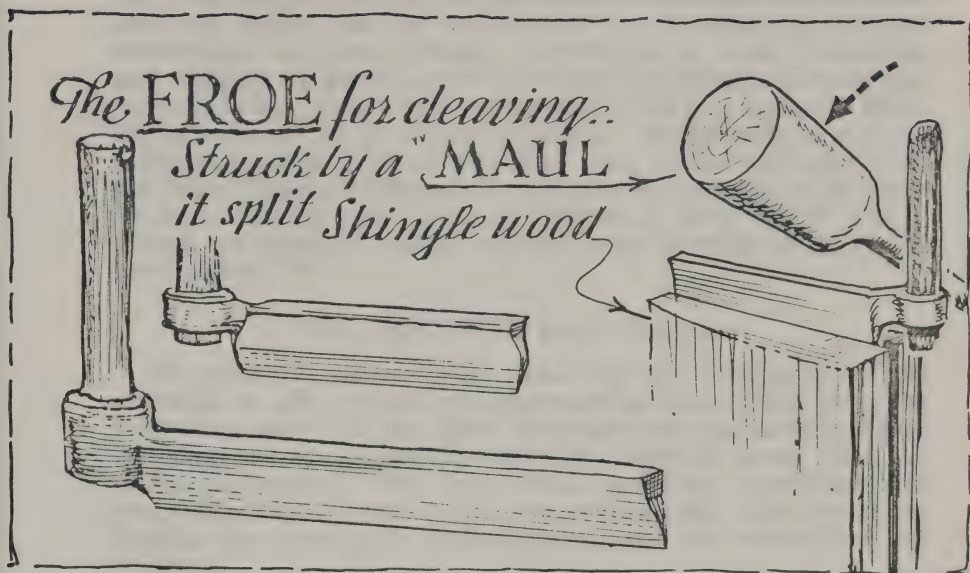
I have to request you will inform Forage at all times  
under very particular circumstances require it. I mean you  
that part of the late Resolves which expressly forbid Forage and  
Antim being issued at any port, but where Troops are Stationed  
nor can you even draw public Forage for your own Teams  
any longer. - The Intention of Congress is that the teams im-  
ployed in the State find their own Forage and receive the  
additional pay - so that you will furnish them your self  
in future - I can't with any propriety render the returns of  
Forage to the Deputy Quarter Master contrary to the Instruc-  
tions or plan laid down by Congress, and I know you would  
not wish you censured - If the voluntary teams wont engage  
to haul upon conditions of finding themselves - Colonel Knicker-  
must then order out such Number of teams from time to  
time as the public Service may require - I hope you  
wont discontinue your own teams in consequence of the Re-  
solves but try to do good every way - I have the pleasure  
to be with Respect Sir your Very Hum Servt.

J. M. B. B. B.

Colonel David Dushler







*from American Barns and Covered Bridges*

*By permission of author, Eric Sloane*



some to Oley, some to Lancaster Counties, and a part remains with me . . . There was about 20 died in the course of 4 or 5 days after they had arrived . . . and several more died out on the Farms . . . Believe it to be owing to their hard keeping at Camp, and on their way here . . . I have had Six sales at different places . . ." Secondly, on the same day he wrote to John Lerch: "I have had so many people on my hands . . . that I found it impossible to get away yesterday, it being Court time . . . make no doubt but I shall meet with good encouragement from him [Colonel Miles] for my labour on this occasion respecting the horses." This was a merited "self-pat" indeed. To Colonel Timothy Pickering on March 1, 1781, he had enumerated one hundred and fifty horses that he had billited in Northampton County, twenty-eight in Lower Saucon, twenty-four in Lynn Township, and eighteen at John Lerch's in Allen Township, among others not mentioned. And it may be added, he did not approve "Billitting those horses on the people unawares." Incidentally, it is worth noting that General Washington four years earlier, in March 1777, had asked Thomas Mifflin, then quartermaster general, to purchase for him "fifty or one hundred condemned army horses which, though too worn for military service, might develop into valuable brood mares."<sup>10</sup>

### THE POST-WAR BUSINESSMAN

As previously stated, Weiss closed up the business of his department in 1783, retired, and purchased a tract of land from the Moravians north of the Blue Mountain on the Lehigh River, including the site on which Fort Allen formerly stood. Here he settled his family in 1785. Mrs. Weiss, according to tradition, did not readily adapt herself to the new environment. She missed her friends, the church she had attended, and the school for her children.

As a result of the acquisition of the letter book and the presentation before the Lehigh County Historical Society of a paper dealing with its contents, Mrs. Fred D. Kutz, of Allentown, a great great granddaughter of Colonel Weiss, presented to the Society his account book which enables us to examine his business dealings after the war years.

From June 14, 1783 (page 84 of the account book) to September 5, 1795, he entered the accounts of his lumber business; the names of purchasers, quantity of lumber sold, and cash receipts. A total of sales entered shows he grossed £606, 2, 9½. From August 8 to November 30, 1786, he entered the names of men employed by him and the nature of their work. Other entries record his store accounts in 1784, when he sold mutton, beef, veal, venison, and

<sup>10</sup> Kenneth R. Rossman, *Thomas Mifflin and the Politics of the American Revolution*, University of North Carolina Press, 1952, p. 50.





butter; the latter at 10 to 12 pence per pound. Another very valuable portion of the ledger is his entry during 1785 of the names of raftsmen whom he employed, the names of makers of rafts, places to which they rafted on the Lehigh, and their time. The commercial dimensions of this master of accounts also show his purchases during 1784 and 1785 of rum, brandy, wine, molasses, tea, chocolate, coffee, sugar, and pepper; a return of boards and timber sawed by William Burns and John Hawn for the years 1785 and 1786; and a record of logs hauled in 1787 to the saw mill at Fort Allen.

In 1791, Philip Ginter, a hunter, showed Weiss a piece of the "stone coal" he had found. The Colonel took the specimen to Philadelphia to John Nicholson, Michael Hillegas, and Charles Cist, Weiss's brother-in-law. They authorized Weiss to pay Ginter for his discovery provided he point out the spot where he had found it. Later, to introduce coal to the blacksmiths of the area, Weiss filled his saddlebags and promoted its virtues and uses. This remarkable penman of the letters which follow, a man who had traveled up and down our eastern states during the critical years of the War for Independence, at the age of forty-one had become a successful businessman and promoter of a major industry in eastern Pennsylvania. Though he took up farming for a while, he did so only with moderate success.

Jacob Weiss died at Weissport, January 9, 1839, aged 88 years, one month and eight days, according to the stone that marks his resting place. "Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of Col. Jacob Weiss, who was born Mar. 6th, 1754 and died Nov. 29, 1844, aged 90 years, 8 months and 23 days," reads the inscription on the stone above her grave. Their sons, Francis, a surveyor, and Thomas, who carried on the father's farming and lumbering business, laid out the town of Weissport in Carbon County.

In all his war correspondence, Weiss rarely mentioned his private affairs or his family. On June 15, 1779, from Camp "Middle Brook," to Colonel John Cox, ADQMG, he made one of his rare references: "I intend visiting my Family for a few Days and to join the Army by the Time the Stores may have got there . . ." The year before, two days before Christmas he wrote to Colonel Abeel: "Sir, General Green sett off this Day with his Lady for Philadelphia . . . The General has given me leave of Absence to return Home during the Holidays . . ."

Seventy-seven years after his death, during the celebration of Old Home Week in Lehighton, Miss Gertrude Sweeny, then aged fifteen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sweeny, of Stroudsburg, was introduced to the audience as the youngest descendant of Colonel Weiss present, and unveiled the statue and memorial to him, the donor of the parks to the Lehighton citizens. The *Lehighton Evening Leader* for September 25 and 26, 1916, carried



full reports of the testimonials to his honor. Dr. C. S. Weiss, in a lengthy article appearing in the issue of the 25th, noted: "The letters written to and by him, the deeds and other documents, show that he was a man of unusual activity, energy, intelligence, foresight and benevolence."





## POSTSCRIPT

### FRANCIS WEISS TO MR. JACOB WEISS

#### A Son's Letter to his Father

As we were going to press Mr. T. Hamlet Hontz of Lehighton informed us of the finding of a letter written by Francis Weiss to his father, Jacob, deputy quartermaster general. We immediately suggested that its historical value merited its inclusion in this volume. The gracious permission of the letter's owner, Mr. Harry Blew, of Weissport, enabled us to include it herewith. Photostatic copies of both sides of the lettersheet were too indistinct to reproduce it in facsimile. We have therefore transcribed it.

The original letter was found in the library of the late Austin Boyer, surveyor, of Weissport, whom we had personally known years ago. According to Mr. Blew, the letter was reclaimed by Mr. Boyer about thirty-five years ago, just as it was to be burnt by its original owner. The letter, no doubt delivered by horseback, was addressed to "Mr. Jacob Weiss, Fort Allen." It would be interesting to learn whether other letters addressed to Fort Allen exist. Both Mr. Hontz and Mr. Blew had some doubts as to the dateline of the letter, noting that it might be either 1787 or 1797, the third numeral written indistinctly. Both gentlemen noted, however, that if the former date were accepted, the son's age at time of penning the letter to his father would have been only fourteen. There are other reasons for accepting the latter date, 1797. The mention of P. Ginter, who in 1791 referred his discovery of coal to Jacob, the father, definitely fixes the latter date. Mention of the father's receipt of Ginter's land patent would naturally follow the interest in the discovery. But, more convincing is the letter's reference to "grandmother." She could only have been the writer's paternal grandmother, since the maternal grandmother, Elizabeth (Chaplin), had married a third time in 1763. The writer does not mention his grandfather. John Jacob, his paternal grandfather, had died in 1788. If the letter had been written in 1787 failure to mention the grandfather would seem unlikely.

The contents of the following letter enable us to record that Francis at age twenty-four had established himself as a competent agent for his father in land transactions at the seat of government in Philadelphia. From the intimate knowledge of the health of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cist, it is likely that Francis lived with them.

M.J.B.



Philadelphia, April 19<sup>th</sup> 1797

Dr. Father

I am happy to have it in my power to fulfill your wishes by informing you that Mr. Cist's health is greatly improved since I wrote to you last — and had it not been for the unfavourable weather we have had latterly he would have been down stairs and able to have looked after his business again — Aunt is in a fair way of doing well. She was troubled with a pain in her head a few days ago — but having made use of a blister she is now relieved from that complaint — Grandmother is tolerable well. They beg me to remember their tender love to you and Mamy and return you their thanks for the anxiety you express for their welfare.

I have paid the arrears and Receiver's fees in the tracts in the names of A. Loesh & P. Buck — they are ordered for confirmation and I expect to have them returned into the Secretary's Office by the end of the week — I have done nothing further with Horsfield and Leibegood's — There appear no Caveats against them and as soon as I have cash sufficient I shall get them through the other Offices — I should be glad to have the receipts or at least know the time when the two last mentioned warrants were paid for.

Though you make no mention of P. Ginter's Patent in your letter, I suppose you have received it — and beg you to inform him that it is in your hands — or send it to him and at the same time remind him of the promise he made to search for some white clay in his neighbourhood.

At present I cannot fix any time when to visit you — I shall not leave Mr. Cist till I find it quite suitable.

Accept with Mamy and Brother the assured esteem for you from

Your

dutiful Son

Francis Weiss

Please to give my respects to the Fisher's family and inform them that I am anxious to hear how they are and whether they are likely to be settled according to their mind.

F. W.





## DATE LINES AND NUMBERS OF WEISS LETTERS

Camp Valley Forge	June 8 — 10, 1778	3
Camp White Plains	Aug. 1 — Sept. 13, 1778	17
Camp North Castle	Sept. 17, 1778	1
Camp Quaker Hill	Oct. 20 — Nov. 19, 1778	14
Fish Kill (Landing)	Nov. 2 — 22, 1778	5
Robinson's Farm	Nov. 22, 1778	1
Camp Middle Brook	Nov. 28, 1778 — June 15, 1779	78
Camp Smith's Clove	June 27 — July 15, 1779	13
Camp New Windsor	July 23 — Nov. 4, 1779	30
Morris Town	Feb. 28 — Mar. 19, 1780	3
Camp near Hackensack	Sept. 7, 1780	1
Easton (Including one from Allen Township)	Sept. 13, 1780 — Dec. 8, 1781	92*
Total written by Col. Weiss		258

Written by others, but entered by Col. Weiss into his letter book:

Letters from Cornelius TenBroeck	4
Extract of Minutes of Congress	1
Certificate to Gustavus Reisberg, Esq.	1
Letters from Christian Meng	2
Letters of Nathaniel Wright (his clerk)	3
Order of Joseph Reed to David Deshler	1

\* One letter is entered twice (pages 226 and 232 of letter book)



Camp Valley Forge, June 8, 1778

Sir,

The poplar Chest with the Key Hole on the Lid, that was brought out of Philadelphia last Fall, and gave into my charge at Bristol, I did agreeable to your request remove from thence to Easton.

It was also delivered by me to Robert Lettis Hooper Esq. D.Q.M.G.<sup>1</sup> on the fifth day of October last, with Directions to take charge of the same. I mentioned to him at the time of delivering it to contain Papers relative to our Army, and that if Anthony Butler Esq (Gen<sup>l</sup>. Mifflins Agent) or Colonel Jonathan Mifflin D Q M G<sup>l</sup>. should make application, as it was probable they would, to have it delivered accordingly.

The Box I make no doubt will be found, it must have been sent away from Col<sup>o</sup>. Hoopers in a mistake, and as its now some time since, twill be hard for him to recollect if he has taken no Memorandum; where it has been sent to. This I am confident that I delivered him the Box, or Chest; and that in the afternoon of said Day as above mentioned, and to which I can further testify. In the meantime I remain

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hb<sup>le</sup> Servant

J.W.

D.Q.M. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hamilton AD Camp  
to his Excellency

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<sup>1</sup> As Deputy Quartermaster General, Hooper's department carried Northampton, Bucks, Berks and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania, and Sussex county in New Jersey. He lived during this period in Saucon township, about five miles south of Bethlehem. George Taylor bequeathed to him a silver mounted small sword and named him an executor of his will. He died near Trenton in 1797.

He also had a residence in Easton, northwest corner, Fifth and Northampton Streets. "In the rear, and on the site of the present Zion's Lutheran Church stood a large stone building used by him as a warehouse and later it was used as a barracks for the militia." (*The Pennsylvania-German*, XII, No. 7, July 1911)





Copy of Letter omitted Entering in June last — <sup>2</sup>

Camp Valley Forge June 9<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

The Bearer George Seitz will deliver you Twenty Old Tents that want repair, for which I have his Receipt; you'll please to satisfy him for carrying them up.

The Canteens came without a Memorandum of their Number. I have had them carefully counted, and they are Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty One, which you'll charge me with, fit for Service, and Thirty One unfit: Markees and Horsemans Tents are much wanted, if any on hand, you'll please to hurry them down.

I am Sir  
&c.

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.  
at Reading

Camp Valley Forge June 10<sup>th</sup>. 1778 <sup>3</sup>

Sir,

All such Stores as you may find in future for the use of the Army, you will please to direct or order to be directed to me, with an Invoice of the Contents; that I may be able to inform you or your Assistants, if the Articles sent are agreeable. Should like to know how you range in the Q.M<sup>r</sup>. Generals Department, that I may Credit your Stores as they arrive.

I Received this Day Per William Ferguson Waggon Master, sundry Stores all agreeable to Invoice, save one Pair Horse Shoes, One Axe, and two pair Heams that are lacking, — and in the Account of Stores sent the 30<sup>th</sup>. May, you'll please to take Notice, that five Camp Kettles were short of the Invoice sent per Daniel Schymer Waggoner, also one Waggon Screw of the Number short with the Stores sent per Patrick Grant, Waggoner. The Saddles, Portmanteaus, and Bridles, 'twould be well enough to know the Prices when you send any, and also the prices of those you have already sent, as some are Issued to Officers for which they are to pay Cash.

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<sup>2</sup> This is Weiss's own notation. Inserted following a letter of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1778, we have placed it in its proper chronological order.

<sup>3</sup> Eight days later the British evacuated Philadelphia.



If any Stores of the late Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.<sup>4</sup> come under your notice, or any of your Assistants, it would be requisite they would note them to me in their Invoices, when sent to Camp, that the Stores of the new Arrangement may be distinguished in my Returns to the Q.M<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. from those of the Old —

Yours With Respect

J.W. — D.Q.M.G.

George Ross Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Camp White Plains August 1<sup>st</sup>. 1778<sup>5</sup>

Sir,

The bearer Mr. Jesse Baldwin, has drawn his Proportion of Paper for his Regiment, and has Receipted for it in your behalf. I herewith enclose you the Form of another Return, which you will please to have made out and sent me Per first Opportunity; that I may know the State of Camp Equipage in your Brigade, which will enable me to furnish you, or lay by a Proportion of what may be requisite to compleat you, as Stores arrive: — I mean a Return exclusive of the Detachment [sic] now out under Gen<sup>l</sup>. Maxwell, if anything may be wanted for said Detachment, and they are Continental, it will be requisite for you to order the Q.M<sup>r</sup>. of the same, to make you out a like Return, Separate, which you can also send me. As all the Brigade Q.M<sup>rs</sup>. are to give me an exact State of Camp Equipage in their respective Brigades, by Monday next, I request you will therefore do the same without delay as soon as you possibly can —

I am with Respect &c.

J. W. — D.Q.M.G.

Nath<sup>l</sup>. Wilkinson Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Q.M<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Maxwells Brigade

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<sup>4</sup>Thomas Mifflin had served as the first quartermaster general of the Revolutionary War. He resigned and severed his relations in that department on March 2, 1778. General Nathanael Greene succeeded him after months of delay on the part of Congress in naming a successor. Colonels Cox and Pettit were named assistants. Mifflin had difficulty with his accounts through no fault of his own and was unjustly suspected of dishonesty and mismanagement. "He stood repudiated. Of all persons his successor had to be his rival, Greene. But like Mifflin, Greene hated the place [as quartermaster-general], and 'descended' to it only under pressure and on his own terms. And, again like Mifflin, he soon came to grief in it." (Rossman, *op. cit.*, p. 146)

Greene had taken over the department in the latter part of March, 1778. The charge of peculation against Mifflin was never supported and his insistence on a public inquiry attests to his innocence. Weiss had, as is evident in many of his letters, the same problems to face in settling accounts. Greene resigned the post of quartermaster general. Congress angrily accepted his resignation on August 3, 1778.

<sup>5</sup>This is the first of seventeen letters from Camp White Plains.





Camp White Plains August 24. 1778

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Receipt for the Stores sent, which you will compare with your Account, The Horse Shoes I had counted over twice, and make but six Hundred, Nineteen and half pair. The Waggon Clouts were lacking two, and the rest proved all right.

I have sent to your Care one Chest, one Valiece, with Bedding, three Camp Stools, and one new Horsemans Tent, the Property of the Baron DeArnts and might beg the favour of you to forward the whole, by one of the first Opportunitys to Philadelphia to the care of Mr. Funk, Tavern Keeper in Second Street near Race Street with the enclosed Letter.

I am &c.

Jacob Weiss D.Q.M.G.

C. Sheriff Esq<sup>r</sup>. DQ.MG.

Arthur Graham,

George Miller, John Beaver

Christian Kemmerer, Leonard Tetrick

Camp White Plains August 24. 1778

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Receipt of the Stores sent P. the Bearer Mr. Harman Yost, which agree all to the enclosed Remarks, should be glad you would direct a duplicate Invoice to me, as I have the receiving and issuing of all the Stores for the use of the Army under the Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. or an Invoice exclusive of the one send him, which will enable me in rendering an Account of Stores that may be missing out of the Brigade, either to the QMGen<sup>l</sup>. Waggon Master Gen<sup>l</sup>. &c that may have the Inspection or Direction of said Brigades, and stopping the pay out of the Hands of those who may be employed and entrusted with the Care of the Stores, whether Waggon Masters or Waggoners.

I remain with the Compliments of the Season  
Yours &c.

J.W. — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell DQMG<sup>l</sup>.



Camp White Plains August 6<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

By order of the Quarter Master General you will please to have made and forward to the Army without delay, Three Thousand Canteen Straps that are much wanted for the Strapping of Canteens that are come to Hand and cant be Issued for the Want of them.

You'll also send a Tun of Iron, if any on hand, being out at present, Tents are much wanted, pray send on all that may arrive, that the Troops may get Covered. Should be glad you could inform me what Stores you have at present on Hand.

I am in the mean while

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

Jacob Weiss — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains August 11<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

I received yours respecting the Stores, and should have sent a Number of Teams for them this Day, but found it impossible to procure them time enough, shall see what can be done tomorrow; whatever Iron you may retain, be kind enough to send me an account of the Quantity, that I may make a charge of the same, you'll be kind enough to distinguish the Stores to me, and from whom they come —

Yours &c.

Jacob Weiss D.Q. M.G.

Jos: Shutliff Esq<sup>r</sup>. ADQM.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains August 19<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

The Brigade with the Stores arrived yesterday afternoon. We have Horse Shoes, Knapsacks, and Canteens, more than will be wanting this some time; beg you will send on no more of *them*, untill I may write you. Inclosed you have a list of Sundries much wanted by the Artificers, beg if they can be procured, you will forward on immediately, and write me if to be depended on being sent. I saw an Acct. of Quills and Ink Powder said to be at Morris Town — pray forward on a part of each, or otherwise we must quit Business, having not a Quill or Ink, but which we must





borrow; Should be glad you would have two Hundred folio Books made, which are much wanted, Viz.: One Hundred to be made in the manner of Gen<sup>l</sup>. Mifflin printed Receipt Books, only Blank and no Print: The other Hundred to be folio intended for the Brigade and Regimental Q. Masters, they must be bound on the Quarto side, instead in the manner of the others, being intended for Ledgers, to contain Camp Equipage Issued by the Brigade Q.M<sup>r</sup>. to the Regimental Q.Masters: I shall also want three or four more such folio Books, as sent me from Reading, each Containing three or four Quires and of good Paper; you will please to let the Books herein mentioned also be made of good Paper,<sup>6</sup> and write me if this Request can be complied with or if you think they can be got at any place nearer this, being an entire Stranger in these parts. We are extremely in want of more Canteen straps, beg you will send on five or Six Thousand without Delay, as no Canteens can be Issued without them.

Yours &c.

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains August 21<sup>st</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

I wrote you Yesterday Per one Corndeffer [Poindexter] Waggon Master, with a List enclosed for Sundries of which application has been made me, and if to be had, beg you will forward on as quick as possible to Head Quarters *here*: Should be glad you would send about 1000 Canteens with Straps, Nine Hundred Knapsacks, One Hundred twenty Camp Kettles, and about forty axes with Handles to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Maxfields [Maxwell] Brigade: The Brigade Q.M<sup>r</sup>. has sent me a Return of what Camp Equipage was wanting, and as they did not draw a Proportion equal to the rest, being obliged to march earlier when at Valley Forge: must request you will have them sent, directed either to the Gen<sup>l</sup>. or Nathan<sup>l</sup>. Wilkinson his Brigade QMaster, who will receive the same, any Stores that may be sent them you will please to acquaint me with, that I may make a Charge of the same there is at least about 130 or 140 Tents wanting to cover the Brigade and detached Parties with the Gen<sup>l</sup>., but as they are still much wanted here, and 'tis

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<sup>6</sup> Colonial papermakers were paid large sums of money on warrant from the Continental Congress. William Hoffman, a Maryland papermaker, was paid over two thousand dollars on his account. Frederick Bicking, Mill Creek, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, was paid \$517.30 for 118 reams of paper used for bills of credit; and on April 12, 1779, after having \$2000 advanced him in the previous January, he was awarded \$1500 to enable him to carry on his business.



probable they may have Quarters, shan't direct any thing about Tents, untill I consult with Mr. Pettit,<sup>7</sup> when can write you.

Shall be glad since you have now arrived, that you will be kind enough to distinguish to me, any Stores that may come by way of you for me, that I may know who they come from, and have them entered accordingly. We are in want of an assortment of Leather and Tools for the Harness makers (very much) they are partly Idle for the want of Work — Request you will send me an Assortment of every thing in that way — If you could but let me know by a List of what Stores you may have on Hand, could write you as they might be wanted. We have Knapsacks, Horse Shoes, and Canteens, more than wanted, and more than I like have on Hand at present — Small Nails suitable for the repairing Barrells in the Commissarys Department are much wanted, if to be had send a Quantity — Quills and Ink Powder are also what I expect, and request you will please to send forward, and you'll much Oblige

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains August 27<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Instant came to Hand Yesterday am astonished you have had no Account of your Baggage, inclosed you have a Copy of a Letter with a Duplicate Receipt respecting its being sent to Colonel Sheriffs Care D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. at Valley Forge with directions to have it forwarded to Mr. Funks, to whom there was also a few Lines enclosed. Should it not have come to Hand as yet your best way will be to call on Colonel John Mitchell DQMG<sup>l</sup>. in Philadelphia who will assist you in my Opinion in having it ordered down from thence being almost Confidant of its having arrived long before this time have enclosed you a few Lines to the purpose if wanted. With Compliments of the Season, I remain

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. — D.Q.M. G<sup>l</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. Baron DeArnt

<sup>7</sup> Charles Pettit and John Cox (to whom several letters appear elsewhere) were appointed assistant quartermasters general, March 2, 1778, under Major General Greene, QMG.





Camp White Plains August 27<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dr. Sir,

I wrote you the 2<sup>d</sup>. of this Inst. per Return of Waggoners, Kemerer and others with a Receipt enclosed for Baggage of Colonel Baron DeArnt to be left in your Care and for you to forward Pr. first Opportunity to Mr. Funk Tavern Keeper in Second Street near Race Street Philadelphia. Should be glad if they arrived and are not sent down that you would have it done without fail as he writes me of being much in want of them if otherwise they are not come to Hand beg you will see into the matter and have Restitution made by calling the Waggoners to Account.

I am Sir  
&c.

J.W. DQMG<sup>l</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. Sheriff DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains Sept<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

I Received yours with the Stores, which dont altogether correspond as per Invoice sent, that of the 25<sup>th</sup> also came to Hand this moment, have not time to see M<sup>r</sup>. Pettit so as to answer you about M<sup>r</sup>. Lindsey per this Opportunity, as Express is about setting off, would request that if eight or ten penny Nails, Horse Shoe Nails, Rod Iron, and Canteen Straps can be had, and are at Morris [Town], you will be kind enough to forward on a Quantity of each; with respect to Axes, we want none, and when wanted will write you.

Paper Saddles and Bridles are neither wanted having a good Assortment of each just now. All Stores that may be in call, and as wanted, will write you for. Of Horse Shoes I would always have you to have a Supply on Hand *in Particular*, as there is great Consumption in that Article.

Shall write you in a few Days when to send on, in the mean while would have you send the above Articles mentioned, with a Barrell of Coopers Nails and Six or Seven Hund<sup>d</sup>. Pounds Chalk.

Yours with Respect

J. W. DQ.MG.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel DQMG<sup>l</sup>.



Camp White Plains  
September 5<sup>th</sup> 1778

Dr. Sir,

I have sent you per Return of two Waggon's under the Care of William Small Waggon Master, Thirty Six Pack Saddles, with Thirty six Setts of Geer suitable, there was a Number of them sent here from Fish Kill, and of little use to us at present. You will therefore please to Store them, 'tis probable shall find you a few more shortly. M<sup>r</sup>. Pettit tells me he has wrote to M<sup>r</sup>. Furman respecting the Gentleman you mentioned to me.

I have sent to your Care a Box mark'd with my Name, which you'll please to forward to the Care of Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper at Easton, with the enclosed Letter, per first Waggon's returning that way; and desire that the marked side be kept upwards — expect to be at Morris in a few Days, when will acquaint you of what's stirring, in the mean time remain

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp White Plains Septemb<sup>r</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1778

Sir,

I have no Bowls on hand, or otherwise would have sent you a few. Should you want Ink Powder and Wafers, can furnish you with a small Quantity.

I have enclosed two Letters on publick Business for Stores much wanted, which you'll please to forward Per first Opportunity to the respective places, and you'll much oblige

Your Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Major Shutliff ADQMG





Camp White Plains Sept<sup>r</sup>. 6<sup>th</sup>, 1778

Dr. Sir,

We are much in want of the following Articles, part of which I wrote you for a few Days ago, and if to be had, beg you will forward to this without Delay. —

3 or 4 Barrels of 8 and 10<sup>d</sup> Nails } quite out and greatly  
1 or 2 Casks of Coopers D<sup>o</sup>. } wanted

1 Barrell Waggon Clouts

Any Quantity of Horse Shoe Nails or

10 or 15 Bundles Nail Rods

6 or 700 lbs Chalk, with Chalk Lines

5 or 600 Camp Kettles

Any number of Tents you may be able to send to replace  
Tents unfit for Service

15 or 20 lb<sup>s</sup>. Glue

20 or 30 Setts Waggon Boxes

You may also send on 15 or 20 Boxes of Horse  
Shoes to Renew our Stores —

Shall be glad you would inform me respecting the above Stores, and if they can be sent immediately; — Any Stores that you may send, be kind enough to distinguish to me whose Merchandize. Should be glad to know if the Saddles sent last, ayn't from Otis and Andrews of Boston. A list of the Stores you may have on Hand would be of Service to me, and by sending me the same by a suitable Opportunity, you will much oblige

Your Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

NB.

Needles are much wanted —  
did not come as P<sup>r</sup>. Invoice  
sent last —

James C. Abeel Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.



Camp White Plains Sept<sup>r</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup>. 1778

D Sir,

I handed you a List of Sundries much wanted, when here a few Days ago; and should be glad to have an Answer if they can be sent, Viz<sup>t</sup>. 8 and 10<sup>d</sup> Nails, Cask or Coopers D<sup>o</sup>. Waggon Clouts, Waggon Boxes, Rod Iron Chalk &c. These are exceedingly wanted. You'l send as per inclosed List the Articles mentioned without delay. Should be glad you would send me a Fish Kill Paper, and you'l much oblige —

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay<sup>s</sup>

List of Sundries gave Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay.

2 or 3 Barrells 8 or 10<sup>d</sup> Nails

1 or 2 Casks of Coopers D<sup>o</sup>.

1 Barrell Waggon Clouts

15 or 20 Bundles Nail Rods or a Quantity of Horse Shoe Nails

5 or 600 W<sup>t</sup>. Chalk

12 or 15 Setts Waggon Boxes —

Camp White Plains Sept<sup>r</sup>. 9<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

You'l please to send the Stores under the Care of the Bearer, any matters you may take for the use of your Department, you will be kind enough to have exactly Weighed, or Counted, and let me know at the same time what you have taken, that I may charge the same.

Have sent you three papers Ink Powder, and two Boxes Wafers, if more should be wanted will supply you — In the mean time remain

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J W DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Major Shutliff A.D.Q.M.G.

\* A resolution of the Continental Congress of May 29, 1778, deprived Hay of his rank of lieutenant colonel by brevet since he had been "appointed assistant deputy quarter master general at Ticonderoga," nor was he entitled to any privilege or emolument, "which either does at present or may hereafter accrue to any officer of the same rank in the line." (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XI, p. 554)





Camp White Plains Sept<sup>r</sup>. 13<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

You'l proceed from this place to Fish Kill, and there see that all the Stores of the QMGen<sup>ls</sup>. Department, are properly taken Account of by Colonel Hay, or his Assistants, agreeable to Invoice, when they are all delivered, and carefully Stored, you'l take a Receipt for the same. You'll still continue at Fish Kill untill you hear from me, which will be in a few Days; You'l be particular in charging that no Baggage, or Stores of the Army, exclusive of the Q.M.Gen<sup>ls</sup>. interfere with Ours —

I am Sir, &c.

J. W. D.Q.M. G<sup>l</sup>.

John Shute Esq<sup>r</sup>. DQ.MG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp North Castle<sup>9</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

I received yours a few Days ago, mentioning the Stores in Possession, and have [page torn] that you'l send on to Fish Kill, to the Care of Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay, [ . . . ] forty Boxes Horse Shoes, from one to two Hundred Horse Collars [ . . . ] of a large Size; of other Harness a small Proportion; as many Breast Chains, Lock Chains, Tongue Chains and driving Lines as you can, [ . . . ] Strings in particular are much wanted, and are entirely without.

We have left White Plains — The Army marches in three Divisions; The Right Wing, under Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Putnam, towards Fish Kill, the Left, under Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gates towards Danbury,<sup>10</sup> the Centre, or 2<sup>d</sup>. Line, for Fredericksburgh; where and at which places I suppose the Army will make a Halt for some little Time, have nothing particular to add, but Remain,

Your Very Humble Servant

J. W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

James Abeel Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D.Q.M.G.

<sup>9</sup> This is the only letter from this Camp. Two years later the British spy, Major John Andre, after his capture, was brought to North Castle.

<sup>10</sup> Danbury, located today on U.S. Route 6, was then on the western frontier of Connecticut. Military stores of a considerable amount had been deposited there. "Although this place was not more than twenty miles from the Sound, yet the intervening country was so rough, the troops from the eastward were so frequently passing through the town; and the zeal of the neighboring militia was so much relied on; that the magazines collected at it, were believed to be secure against any sudden attack." (Marshall, *op. cit.*, III, 81) A British force under Governor Tryon of New York, had attacked Danbury the latter part of April in the year prior to Weiss's letter and burned the stores despite the apparent security.



Camp Quaker Hill<sup>11</sup> October 20<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

I have enclosed you a list for Sundries immediately wanted, which if among your own Stores, you'll please to forward on for this place; those that were sent up by Major Shutliff from Tarry Town, and now under the care of Mr. Fisher, you'll please to have kept separate, and only forward them as I may want to draw. There will be some method taken very soon, respecting the Stores that come on from Philadelphia, Morris &c. for me; shall endeavour to be down with you shortly, to settle some plan for their Centring at Fish Kill, from different parts of the Country. There was a Brigade of Stores that came out from Philadelphia Sunday last two Weeks, Conductor's Name unknown, you'll please to order him on with the whole as soon as he answers. You'll please to send with the enclosed List of Stores, two or three [?] Hundred Shovels and Spades, and about One Hundred Picks, having distributed the whole of my Intrenching Tools, and in all probability will be called upon for more in a Day or two — nothing further but remain,

Your Very H<sup>b</sup>le. ServantJ. W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay. DQ.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

NB. The Horse Shoes and [ . . . ] that were sent p<sup>r</sup>. Mr. Olmstead were as follows — 755 Setts and 3 single Shoes

1 Box Contain<sup>d</sup>. 20 Nails Wt. 113<sup>lb</sup>Tare 17<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>————— 95<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> lb<sup>s</sup> Nt. Wt.1 Box Horse Nails Cont<sup>d</sup>. 136<sup>lb</sup>

Tare 20

————— 116<sup>lb</sup> Nt. Wt.List of Stores to be forwarded to the Army lying at Quaker Hill<sup>12</sup> Viz<sup>t</sup>.

10 or 12 Bundles Nail Rods	Of my Stores from Mr. Fisher
12 or 15 lbs. Glue	11 Rheams large post Paper
15 or 20 Sizeable Chest Locks	31 D <sup>o</sup> . middle Sized D <sup>o</sup> .
15 or 20 p <sup>rs</sup> . Chest Hinges	5 large coarse D <sup>o</sup> .
3 or 4 Hundred Brads	3 Common D <sup>o</sup> .
2 or 3 Thousand Clout Nails	
50 or 60 pounds Chalk	

1 Tun Barr Iron

To send out of the above Box one Rheam large, intended for gen<sup>l</sup>. Returns, & let it be of the best and largest —

J.W.

<sup>11</sup> There are fourteen letters from this camp in Rhode Island.<sup>12</sup> Located north of Newport, Rhode Island. The battle of Quaker Hill was fought on August 29, 1778, about seven weeks prior to the date of this letter.





Camp Quaker Hill October 20<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dr. Sir,

I have sent you per the Bearer agreeable to Colonel Pettits directions Boxes of Cloathing as per Invoice here enclosed for which please to send a Receipt, when found to correspond. I have sent you an equal distribution of what Cloathing has come to Hand including that you have already received from Philadelphia.<sup>14</sup> There is one Hogshead One large Box or Case One small Ditto and two Chests one of which is painted green said to contain Cloathing for the Virginians on proper application you will deliver the same.

If Mr. Meng my Assistant with Major Claiborne D.Q.M.G.<sup>1</sup> near West Point, should apply, you will please to deliver him his Chest and a small square Box marked for him, and also herewith sent to your Care. I have desired one Mr. Poindexter to leave a Letter at your Quarters directed for Mr. Trail at Easton, when an early Opportunity offers, please to forward it, and you'l much oblige

Your very Humble Servant

J.W. DQMG<sup>1</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G.<sup>1</sup>.

1 Box Contain <sup>g</sup> .	63 Coats	}	Peter Sturt
	118 Waist coats		
1 Box Containing	116 p <sup>r</sup> . Shoes	}	Martin Miller
	123 Shirts		
	136 Hats		
	33 p <sup>r</sup> . Leath <sup>r</sup> . Breeches		
	27 Blankets		
1 Box Containing	81 Blankets - - -		Peter Sturt
1 Box Containing	546 p <sup>r</sup> . Stockings -		Martin Miller

<sup>13</sup> This letter was entered sometime before December 2, 1778. We have placed it in its proper order.

<sup>14</sup> An example of the value of imports from France is found in the *Journals of the Continental Congress* (Vol. XI, page 584):

"Resolved, That Governor Henry [of Virginia] be requested to purchase, for the United States, the articles contained in the list hereto annexed, being part of the cargo of the French ship *le Fier Roderique*, as cheap as he can, not exceeding the price following, to wit. £ 450 Virginia money for every one hundred pounds sterling, to be paid in tobacco, at ten dollars per hundred, and that a letter be written to his excellency, explaining the principles of such limitation:

*List of Articles.*

Leaden bullets of different size; men's silk and woollen stockings; woollen caps; the different kinds of buckles; uniform buttons for officers and



Camp Quaker Hill October 27<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

I would request your sending to Morris Town for a Quantity of Intrenching Tools, such as Shovels, Spades and Picks, unless you have of the same at Fish Kill; which should be glad you would inform me per first Opportunity.

I shall want a Barrell of Clouts, and also Clout Nails, which you'l please to forward per some Waggon coming this way —

I am &c.

J W — D.Q.M.G.<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay.

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soldiers; sleeve buttons; red cadis for the lining of uniform; coarse and fine shirts; woollen blankets; soldiers' hats; cloths fine, for officers; ditto coarse for soldiers; and light ditto for soldiers; brass ink-stands; white flannel, sewing thread; linen spatterdashes for soldiers; soldiers' cloathing ready made; an assortment of handkerchiefs; gun powder; wristbands for shirts; flints; serget of different colors, viz. scarlet, sky-blue; brown and white, for linings; an assortment of sewing silks; men's shoes, soldiers' Knapsacks; an assortment of brown and white linens; white Malaga in cases; red Burgundy in cases, 12 groce; claret in casks, 20 casks; white wine vinegar."

The above appeared in the *Journal* for June 10, 1778. A month later, July 9, it was

"Ordered, That the Committee of Commerce consult with the Board of War, and jointly agree with the governor of Virginia for such part of the *Roderique's* cargo, purchased by the State of Virginia, as they shall think wanting for continental use."

The delay in purchases is thus very evident. Deliveries would be effected today in a matter of hours, but again on July 13, 1778, Congress by resolution ordered "That the President [Henry Laurens] write by express to Governor Henry, and request him to spare, for the use of the army of the United States, all the vinegar composing part of the cargo of the ship *Roderique*, purchased by the State of Virginia."





Camp Quaker Hill October 29<sup>th</sup>. 1778

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

It will be very [necessary] to have the Prices of the Cloathing as quick as possible, and also [to] have on the full proportion meant to be sent for the use of the artificers and Teamsters, a part of whom, tho not entitled [by] way of Bounty, will be obliged to be furnished and charged<sup>15</sup> herewith, or otherwise will quit the Service for want of Covering, which point you will take into immediate Consideration, as the Weather will soon be severe.<sup>15</sup>

The Harness, Breast, and Tongue Chains of M<sup>r</sup>. Wades, are most shocking Trash, no ways suitable for Continental Service, as we ought to have the best and stoutest of everything; and question much if they will not be thrown on his Hands, when Colonel Thompson comes to see them. Would have you to inform him with Respect to this last assortment sent out. The Blind Bridles are not only base work, but come half finished, some wanting Reins, and others Forehead pieces and Throat Latches, The Breast and Tongue Chains, and Chains in general, are so badly made, that it would be running great Risks for Waggoners to steer their Horses in this Mountainous Country without Danger of Killing them, and losing their own lives. The Collars are much too small, and not worth sending without better made, and as Col<sup>o</sup>. Pettit goes from this place shortly, will leave matters respecting Stores till his Departure, and remain with Respect.

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J. W. — DQMG<sup>1</sup>.

John Mitchell Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D.QMG<sup>1</sup>.

Fish Kill November 2<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

I have put [ . . . ]<sup>16</sup> Stores as may be wanted, and are to go from this place in the Morning [ . . . ] Colonel Thompson WMGen<sup>1</sup>. have a Copy of the Cloathing sent [ . . . ] I would have you give me a sketch out of the Receipt [ . . . ] of what Tents were Issued from the parcel that came by White [ . . . ] there seems to be a Mistake with Respect to the Number [ . . . ] sent by Colonel Mitchell.

<sup>15</sup> Twenty days earlier, October 9, 1778, a committee of Congress had recommended that James Mease, clothier-general, make no more purchases; that clothing in stock or on order be apportioned among the several states according to their quotas of troops; that each state issue to their own troops.

<sup>16</sup> Center of page deteriorated. The letter book was unfortunately used by some former owner as a botanical press for ferns and leaves.



You'll forward a Line to me at Middle Brook for which place I shall sett off to morrow by way of Ming. Should you hear of Burchan's Arrival at Danbury would have you desire him to continue and write Mr. Starr to furnish him with such Stores as he may find requisite for the Troops.

I am Sir,  
&c.

J W - D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Mr. Cornelius Ten Brook

Camp Quaker Hill Nov. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene informs me that he thought there was a Number of Tents at Fish Kill, and as they will be still wanted untill we go into Winter Quarters, would request your sending them on to me, P. Return of Waggon under the Care of Mr. Gilmore bearer hereof; or any other Waggon returning before him for this place. I am also in want of Collars and Waggon Clouts, for which I wrote before, and would also have sent on. All Stores that may come to your Hands for me, would have Retained at Fish Kill, and Information given me of the same, as in all probability we shall leave these parts very shortly.

I am Sir,  
Yours &c

J. W. - D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay

Camp Quaker Hill November 4<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

I received your [request by Dyer], and have sent you one Team Consisting of the Stores and Invoice enclosed - am astonished you never mentioned what Stores you had on Hand, or what might be wanting; The Cloathing is meant for your Use, and if not wanted you will be careful to keep them clean: [am] of Opinion you'll return very shortly; - I have only to desire your being carefull of what you have under your Direction, to see that nothing goes lost; I expect you'll not be trusting your Keys to Dyer, or any other Person, but see and Deliver your Stores yourself; I would have you to inform me what Q.M. Generals Stores are to





be had on your Rout, and who the Gentlemen are that Act; anything that may be wanted, and can be had for the use of the Troops, agreeable to our Customary Issues, you'll see to get of such Gentleman [*sic*] as Act under the Q.M. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Department. — I should be glad if its convenient that you would request the Brigade QMasters to give you a Return of their Camp Equipage they have on Hand, you'll not neglect being very particular respecting Stores, and make it your Business to send on aforehand, for such things as you may find will be requisite for the Troops. I have sent you a Cannister of Tea, which have charged to you. I have also sent you Sixty Dollars for which you are to Account with me. Should be glad you would send me an Account of what you have Received of me in the Cash way likewise.

I am Sir, &c.

J. W. D.Q.M.G.

Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup>. Burchan

Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup> 1778

Dr. Sir,

Yours of the 7<sup>th</sup>. & 9<sup>th</sup>. Inst. came to Hand, with the Coats and Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greens Orderly [?] Books. Shall send you some Horse-Shoes, Heam Strings and Sauce Pans in a Day or two —

Inclosed you have a Copy of the last allowance of Paper, settled by the Q.M. General, which you'l please to Issue accordingly. Should have been glad if able, that you would have sent me an Account of what Stores on Hand, and what you think might be requisite for the Department.

I am Sir

With Respect &c.

J. W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>

Mr. Christopher Meng



Camp Quaker Hill Novemb<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

You will please to have forty cross cut Saws sent to Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel D.Q.M.G. at Morris Town, which is at the request of General Green; and you'll also send Twelve to M<sup>r</sup>. Starr ADQMGen<sup>l</sup>. at Danbury, you'll have them forwarded to each place as soon as possible:— Inclosed you have a Copy of the Stores for M<sup>r</sup>. Starr by order of the QM<sup>r</sup>. General, and if you have any Froes you'll please to have two Hundred sent him. Should be glad to know by first Opportunity, if the Saws and Froes\* can be sent. I shall load sundry Stores and send them to Fish Kill in a Day or two.

I am with Respect

Yours &c.

J.W. — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 12<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

At the request of Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene QMGen<sup>l</sup>. have sent you the Stores as Per Invoice enclosed, which you'll please to examine in the presence of the bearer M<sup>r</sup>. Evans Waggon Master — I make no doubt you will find all to correspond, save those which are particularly mentioned; [ . . . ] contain Horse Shoes &c. and were not examined or opened by me, and which you'll please to have carefully done —

I have wrote to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay to forward you twelve cross cut Saws and two Hundred Froes, agreeable to the Generals Request, when they arrive you will please to acquaint me. I should like to know what kind of QMasters Stores are in your Possession, and likewise what you think will be requisite for that Post.

I am &c.

JW D.QMG<sup>l</sup>.

Ezra Starr Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
ADQMG<sup>l</sup>.

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\* See illustration opposite page 17.





Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

Agreeable to Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greenes request, have sent you sundry Stores as per Invoice inclosed; the Box of Linnen in John Bowes Waggon Containing Thirty One Pieces, you will please to have immediately opened and examined if not Wet, having had such heavy Rain; the Tents you'l also have dried, and carefully Stored: The Geers Tongue and Breast Chains said to be Condemned were sent me by Col<sup>o</sup>. Wade from the Southward, you'l please to have them examined and Stored untill further Directions from the General. There is sundry old Geers in the within mentioned Invoice, that with a little Work may be made to Answer —

I wrote you respecting Forty cross Cut Saws being sent to Morris Town, and twelve to Danbury at the Gen<sup>ls</sup> request, hope they will be sent forward without Delay — You'll also send a suitable Number [of Sand] Stones to each place, which the General has since desired me to mention.

The Covered Waggon with the enclosed Letter you'll please to have forwarded to Mr. Christopher Meng at Robinsons Farm, with the two Boxes in Martin [ . . . ] Waggon said to contain Horse Shoes and Nails; Any Quarter Masters Stores that you may hear are coming out for me, would have you please to order to Morris Town.

I am, Sir

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

JW — DQMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 15<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

I have sent you Sundries as per Invoice Inclosed and also two Boxes Horse Shoes containing 200 Pair, and also Twenty Pounds Nails, which will be forwarded you by Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay, to whom I have sent Sundries not wanted for the present. We march from hence in a Day or two for Middle Brook, where we are to fix for Winter Quarters.

You have a Copy of the allowance of Paper now sent you, which was forgot to be inclosed you in the last hurry of Business which has caused my Neglect in not sending you it before. I am extremely rejoiced to find we are to leave this part of the Country, and expect you will be with me very shortly, in the mean while



would have you to rest Contented, and let nothing be wanting, on your part, with respect to the Stores.

I make not the least doubt but shall call and see you in a Day or two. I shall sett off immediately after the Stores are put up, for Middle Brook by way of Fish Kill — and remain

Sir,  
Your very Humble Servant

J W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Mr. Christopher Meng

Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 17<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

I have sent you two Boxes of Cloathing with a few Knapsacks— to fill one of the Boxes, as per Invoice Inclosed, intended for the Enlisted Waggoners, and which you'l please to Issue when called upon by the DWMG<sup>ls</sup>. under Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson WMG<sup>l</sup>., at whose request have sent them to you for the use of the Waggoners Eastward of this; The method of Issuing the Cloathing will be to let the said DWMGen<sup>ls</sup>. draw such Proportions agreeable to their Returns and orders assigned them on you by Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson W<sup>d</sup>.MG<sup>l</sup>., who will order in that respect as may be requisite; You'll take Receipts for the Cloathing as described you, in case there should be a charge made of them or any part thereof, The cost of which being as yet unknown:

I sent you Sundry Stores a few Days past, when found to correspond request your Information — I have enclosed a Memorandum respecting the distribution of Paper agreed upon by the Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>., and upon which I have Issued to the Troops. The method Stores have been drawn from me while the Army was together, was in the following manner: All Camp Equipage delivered to the Brigade QM<sup>rs</sup>. upon shewing their appointment from the QMG<sup>l</sup>. to act as such; Camp Equipage delivered only to Regimental Q.M<sup>rs</sup>. by the Orders of the BQMasters or Commanding Officers of Brigades or Regiments, and other higher Officers included; All kinds of Camp Equipage delivered to the Waggon Masters upon Orders of WMGen<sup>l</sup>. or his Deputys &c. and with respect to other Departments, that Stores of all kinds may be charged to the Heads of each.

Any further Information that you may find requisite, will make known to you on application, not knowing your Instructions induced me to add as much as I have — and remain

Yours &c

JW. DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Ezra Starr Esq<sup>r</sup>. ADQMG<sup>l</sup>.





Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 19<sup>th</sup> 1778

Sir,

I have sent Sundries as per Invoice enclosed; at the request of Col<sup>o</sup>. Baldwin, you'll please to furnish the Artificers with what Nails as are wanted for the Barracks at West Point. The Shoes are for the use of your Teamsters &c. employed in the Service, which you'll dispose of as you think proper. The crosscut Saws, I wrote to you to forward to Morris Town, if not sent you'll please to detain, as Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel it seems has a Number on Hand.

Not knowing what kind of an assortment of Stores may be at Morris Town, would have you to forward for Middle Brook, to my Care or to Mr. John Shate whom I have sent forward to procure Stores, suitable for the Goods that may be sent on

1 Box mark <sup>d</sup> . J. Dunlap N <sup>o</sup> . 1	
1 Box .... J.W. contain <sup>g</sup> .	12½ Rheams paper N <sup>o</sup> . 1
1 Box .... J.W. —	Files and Rasps
1 Box N <sup>o</sup> . 3	16 Rheams paper — N <sup>o</sup> . 1
1 D <sup>o</sup> . 4	12½ Rheams D <sup>o</sup> . — D <sup>o</sup> .
1 D <sup>o</sup> . 14	7 Rheams D <sup>o</sup> . —
1 D <sup>o</sup> . O.B. N <sup>o</sup> . 5	292 Orderly Books

There are sundry other Stores that will be wanted at Middle Brook, shall mention them myself, intending to leave this place in the Morning for Fish Kill.

I am Sir,

With Respect

Your very Hble. Servant

JW — D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Fish Kill November 21<sup>st</sup> 1778

Sir,

The Teams that may be forwarded you by Colonel Taylor D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>., you will please to take into charge. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green requests you will have the Horses put out to Recruit, or to be Winter'd; The Geers to be Stored, and the Waggon to be put under Shelter, if possible; those of the enlisted Waggoners, you will please to Order to Middle Brook, where we shall hold Winter Quarters.

I am, Sir,

Yours &c.

JW. DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.



Fish Kill Landing Nov<sup>r</sup>. 21<sup>st</sup> 1778

Dear Sir,

I omitted mentioning to you yesterday, that Cloathing was sent to Mr. Ezra Starr ADQMG<sup>l</sup>. at Danbury, for the Waggoners agreeable to your request:— Mr. Tenbrook can give you a Copy of the Contents; I wrote Mr. Starr that they were only intended for your Department, and that you would give him Instructions how to Issue them:— You will therefore write him without Fail, as soon as possible, lest they might be drawn by your Deputy or Deputies, contrary to your Rules or Method of having them Issued.

I am, Sir

Yours &c.

J.W. DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Mr. J<sup>s</sup>. Thompson  
WMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Fish Kill Landing Nov<sup>r</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

There are sundry Q.M.Gen<sup>ls</sup>. Stores here that I shall want to have forwarded to Middle Brook in the Jerseys per the Teams under the care of the Bearer Mr. Thomas White Waggon Master, who has been in my Employ hauling Stores from Fredericksburgh to this place. Mr. White will therefore want Rations and Forage to enable him to succeed, you'll in that respect please to empower him to draw on the Commissarys and Forage Masters on his Rout to Middle Brook. Mr. Fisher has transported the Stores over to you, which you'll please to have carefully Loaded and directed for me at Middle Brook — it is Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green's desire that the spare Waggons go to Easton to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper, D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>. Such Teams therefore as Mr. White may not have Occasion for on his Rout for Middle Brook, you'll please receipt to him for, and order under the Care of Mr. Brooks W. Master now with him — The spare Teams of his, and all of Brooks', may proceed to Easton — and you'll be kind enough to direct them to Colonel Hooper as per enclosed Letter, taking Brooks' Receipt for the Teams in his own Care, and those of Mr. Whites, to be Delivered Colonel Hooper.

I am Sir,

Yours &c.

J.W. DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Colonel Taylor





Fish Kill November 22<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

While I was at the Landing, the Waggoner arrived here with the Shoes &c. which corresponded with the Invoice, and it seems he has returned to join the Teams with you; — I have forwarded the Stores from here, such as Paper &c. that may be wanted when we arrive at Middle Brook, for which place I shall proceed immediately by way of Kings Ferry, and expect to lodge with Mr. Meng to Night.

I want you to inform Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson that the Cloathing was forwarded to the care of Mr. Starr, a copy of which you can give him, and let him know he must write Starr, himself with respect to their being Issued, and to whom; that he will also instruct his Deputies of their being there, and the method of their being drawn, or for to be Issued. Should Burchan write respecting his situation you will call on the General for Instructions, and should the General think proper to order Mr Starr to supply the Troops, you may if he thinks proper instruct him of our method of Issuing Stores, both in a general way, and upon special Orders being in haste conclude

Yours with Respect, and remain  
Your Humble Servant

J.W. DQMG<sup>1</sup>.

Mr. Cornelius TenBroeck

NB:

You will overlook the Receipt Book carefully, and inform me by a few Lines what number of Tents were taken out of the Teams of White's Brigade, for it seems there is a deficiency, you will therefore make it your first Business to know that, and leave a few Lines at General Greens, to be forwarded me at Middle Brook per one of the first Opportunity's.

J.W.

Robinsons Farm<sup>17</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 1778

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

The Stores at Kings Ferry had better be sent for, and have to request you will please to see it done. The Froes I would advise having forwarded to Mr. Starr at Danbury, with sundry other Stores I mentioned to Mr. Fisher at the Landing. I have

<sup>17</sup> It was from here almost two years later that Benedict Arnold fled after the British spy, Major John Andre, had been captured. Mrs. Arnold had prepared breakfast that morning for General Washington, Colonel Hamilton, Lafayette, and General Knox.



enclosed you an Account of the distribution of paper, agreeable to which the Brigade QMasters draw, and are to receipt for, delivering Return for the same, which I generally endorse with the Receipts; Bound Orderly Books are also Issued to Brigade QMasters upon Returns in the same manner, and when they know them to be absolutely wanted:— The Tents not being found to correspond, would request all the new Ones in particular to be carefully counted over, and those Tents that were Issued since their arrival to either the Brigade or Regimental QMasters, to be immediately taken Notice of whether new or Old, which can be readily done while the Troops lye in your district, and may save some confusion in the Accounts hereafter.

Any Stores that may be broached of those I sent to you, and now under the care of Mr. Fisher have to request may be opened, and an Account particular taken of the Contents before they go out of his Hands. Those matters that were opened, and which I mentioned to Major Hale beg may also be ascertained, and mentioned to me by some Opportunity. The great hurry in our movement while we lay at the White Plains, prevented my having a regular Account taken of every little matter — I desired Mr. Fisher to furnish me as soon as possible, with an Account of all the Stores sent down to the Care of Major Shutliff while at Tarry Town, and directed to the QMGenerals Store under my Care — You will please to order it done, and likewise have them distinguished to me from whom they might have been sent to you. And also request Colonel Taylor's doing the same. Should be glad to hear from you with respect to said Stores by the Time I arrive at Middle Brook.

I am, Sir, With Respect

Yours &c.

J.W. — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Middle Brook<sup>18</sup> November 28<sup>th</sup> 1778

Dr. Sir,

I arrived here two days ago and Quarter at one Cornelius Tunisons. The Stores last sent out arrived at Morris Town and were taken in by Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel who will receipt to you. I should be glad what Cloathing may still be intended for the Artificers and Teamsters may be sent on as quick as possible to this place that they may be distributed to their respective districts as Cold Weather comes on fast. When the General arrives I expect there

<sup>18</sup> This is the first of seventy-eight letters written by Weiss while the Continental army was in winter quarters at Middle Brook.





will be some plan laid respecting the Stores being lodged at particular Posts. Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel I understand has his appointment as Manager of all Camp Equipage for the Army twill therefore be necessary for the Stores hereafter to be charged to him and forwarded to Morris. So that a supply may at any time be had from thence when required. I am much for having the matter settled and that the Stores come out upon a proper footing. The movement of the Army has prevented my sending you Receipts for the Stores lately forwarded by Brooks and others, but will do it in a few Days.

I am with respect

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

John Mitchell Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook November 30<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

I wrote you the 22<sup>d</sup>. Instant.— The Stores at Kings Ferry that were directed by Colonel Abeel for me, I desired Mr. Kearsé your Assistant to forward, and were as follows. One Box Horse Shoes N<sup>o</sup>. 25 Con<sup>l</sup>. 85 Setts — Thirty six Bundles Nail Rod, Fifteen Setts and half of Waggon Boxes and five Barrells Tar, which shall charge to you. The Box of Horse Shoes Mr. Kearsé kept for the use of his Department, and the remainder were to be sent on by him. I sent you a Copy of what Stores I furnished Mr. Starr at Danbury, and which were at the Generals request. I would advise your forwarding Intrenching Tools sufficient for Three Thousand Men, to Danbury; I wrote Colonel Abeel to forward the Froes to you, and an Assortment of Spades Shovels and Picks least you might have none to spare, which you'll please to see and have forwarded in case they should be wanted. I have received a fresh supply of Cloathing such as Coats, Vests, and Breeches, you'll therefore send me a Return without delay, of what you may still want, and they shall be forwarded you immediately. I shall want to have an Account respecting the Tents sent you per White Waggon Master, to Receipt to Colonel Mitchell for the Number sent.

I am, With Respect

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.



Camp Middle Brook Nov<sup>r</sup>. 30<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

As the Bearer will Return this way, am desirous of knowing how I may be supplied with 10, 12 and 30<sup>d</sup> Nails, in case there should be a greater call, than for what I may now have on hand, which are eleven Casks, two Barrells and three Boxes. If you are of opinion 'tis better, will write immediately to Philadelphia, and have a supply forwarded, but if you will rather undertake the matter yourself, it will answer me as well. You'll please to have the remainder of the cross cut Saws forwarded, with the remainder of Intrenching Tools.

I am, Sir, With Respect  
Yours &c.

J.W. — D.Q.M.G.<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G.<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 2<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

I received the paper and Sash Lights safe. General Green[e] arrived on Sunday Evening which, I suppose you have heard, and desires that Twenty, or Twenty five Cross Cut Saws be sent on immediately in addition to those already come to Hand. You'll not omit writing me about the Nails.

The Cloathing that came in, and now with you, be kind enough to distinguish unto me, of what kind and Colours particularly as I have the distributing them to the different Departments and shall have to charge them accordingly when the prices are made known to me. I am of opinion shall want a Stove with Pipes should you have any on hand — would request your saving one untill I see how I am to fix. Please to forward the enclosed and you'l oblige

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. — DQ.M.G.<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G.<sup>l</sup>.





Camp Middle Brook December 24. 1778

Sir,

I should be glad you would inform me of the arrival of the Cloathing, and also on whom your reliance will be respecting Stores. I would advise your making application to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay for such Stores you mayn't readily get from the Eastward; I have desired him to forward you the Froes, and Intrenching Tools suitable for Three Thousand Men; when they arrive, you will also inform me, that I may acquaint the Q.M.General how you are situated —

Mr. Richard Burchan my Assistant is with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gates Division, and has sundry Stores with him. he can remain with you if the Troops lye at Danbury, and will be able to assist you, untill I have the Generals Mind respecting his further Continuance. Of which shall write you again in a Day or two. In the mean time, I remain with Respects.

Your very Humble Servant

J:W: — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Ezra Starr Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
ADQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook, Dec<sup>r</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

The Bearer Mr. Thomas White Waggon Master returns with eight Teams, four Horses out of which were left by the way, an Account of which shall deliver Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson as soon as he arrives to this place. You will endeavour to make a Deduction on Col<sup>o</sup>. Arthur Irwin's Account of Waggon Hire, for one new Leather Collar, one new Blind Bridle, and one new Belly Band, which were delivered his Waggoner, for the use of his Team. It would not be amiss to forward on a few Casks of 10, 12 & 20<sup>d</sup> Nails, in addition to them sent me by Evans Brigade.

I'm with Respect &c.

J. W. — D.Q.M. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

John Mitchell Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D. Q. M. Gen<sup>l</sup>.



Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

The Bearer Mr. David Evans WMaster, will deliver you sundry Horses, agreeable to Receipts herewith enclosed; they are quite worn down,<sup>19</sup> and want Recruiting. You will please to take the Necessary Steps in that Respect, and acquaint me of their coming to Hand; There will also be sundry Teams delivered you by One Brooks Waggon Master, that left Fish Kill about two weeks ago.

I have nothing *strange* to add, save that we are making Preparations for Winter Quarters. My Respects to M<sup>rs</sup>. Hooper and remain

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

JW: DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 7<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dear Sir,

I wrote you a few Days ago, advising a few Casks Nails being forwarded in addition to those that were sent P. Mr. Evans Waggon Master some time past. I have since requested Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeels Writing you in that behalf, having had an immediate Opportunity from hence. You'll therefore please to forward 10 or 12 Casks of 12 & 20<sup>d</sup>. Nails — Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel will probably mention 10 and 12<sup>d</sup>., but the General thinks that 20 penny will be most wanted, so that you will rather send 12 & 20<sup>d</sup>., and per as quick an Opportunity as possible.

You'll oblige me much in sending me Three Quarters or a Hundred Pounds of good brown sugar, for my Winters Mess; Should you think it will be more reasonable a while hence, may only send half the Quantity, and for which will remit you, and Remain

Yours &c

JW: D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> This description, applied to horses used as the mobile and transport units in the Continental Army, was frequently used by Weiss. Ten years after the close of the war it was still used: "I was so well as to ride out yesterday, but I am yet very weak, and as much worn down as ever you saw a continental horse in the Spring of 1777." (Benjamin Rush to an unidentified correspondent, Philadelphia, Oct. 6, 1793, quoted in *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXVIII, 1, Jan. 1954.) Even the British had their problems with their horses: "The British found it totally unsafe to forage but with large covering parties, which were often attacked with advantage, and their horses frequently taken. Their miserable appearance evidenced the scarcity which prevailed in camp." (Marshall, *op. cit.*, III, 66).





Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 16<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Inclosed you have an Invoice of Cloathing sent per David Elmer Waggon Master, with an Account Current of Cloathing due agreeable to your Return. The Gen<sup>l</sup>. dont mean to find Cloathing for the Year 1777, and which he tells me he has wrote you. I have sent a greater Proportion of Cloathing than what's due. Shoes and Shirts will be forwarded you by Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel, to whom I have wrote P. M<sup>r</sup>. Elmer. Should be glad Major Hale would render me an Account of those Articles that were taken from the Store at the Landing, such as Gimblets &c. Also respecting the Settlement of the Tents.

I am with Respect,  
Yours &c.

J.W. — D. QMG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay  
D. QMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 16<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Inclosed you have a Receipt for the Contents of the two Boxes sent by Philip Shoenberger Waggoner which came to Hand last Evening. You'll in all Probability receive a few lines from M<sup>r</sup>. How respecting Iron for the Pack of Artillery, which you'll please to comply with. I have forwarded five Boxes and one Bale Cloathing pr. David Elmer Waggon Master bearer hereof. Should they want better securing you'll please to order it done, and likewise deliver him One Hundred Shirts, and Two Hundred Seventy Pair Mens Shoes, if in Store; which will compleat his Return for Cloathing, for the use of Col<sup>o</sup>. Hays Department, to whom you will please to send an Account of what you may send by him, likewise inform me that I may charge him accordingly. You'll receive a Box of Scales Beams &c. sent to my Care by Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell whom you'll Credit for the same. I took the freedom to exchange a pair of Beams in lieu of the Ones sent you herewith, rather larger and somewhat faulty in the turn which by Examination you'll observe. I shall still want the following Articles which you'll please to send Immediately P. the Waggoners herewith sent under the Care of M<sup>r</sup>. Elmer who are come out from Philadelphia and are desirous of returning.

Broad Axes

Adzes

Claw or Carpenters Hammers

12 or 15 Cross cut Saws with cross cut and Hand Saw Files and also Saw Setts.



10 or 12 Saddles with the prices or distinguishing whose Merchandize

About 2 Tun Barr Iron as wrote for including that for Mr. How  
10 or 12 Barrs Steel suitable for new Steeling Axes &c. — And  
a good Stove with pipes agreeable to Dimentions which should  
be glad in particular to know if can be sent.

Yours &:

JW. D.Q. MG<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Captain Low is desirous of making a Settlement with his Men and wants to know the price of the Cloathing that he may deduct it out of their Pay. The General nor myself have as yet received the Prices and have Concluded that the following prices stand fix'd untill we know more about the matter. Mr. Low intends making a Settlement with you.

The Cloathing for the Artificers &c. of your Department were put up and sent off yesterday all in good order — with a Return enclosed.

I am, Sir,

Yours &c.

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

	Dollars
Brown Cloth Coats lined throughout .....	53 $\frac{1}{3}$
Leather Breeches .....	24
P <sup>rs</sup> . Yarn Stockings .....	4
Shoes .....	8
White Linnen Shirts .....	12
Striped Indian Blankets .....	16





Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 18<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Mr. Elmer Waggon Master now on his way from here for Fish Kill with Cloathing for Colonel Hay will call on you for 100 Shirts and 200 Pair Shoes which have wrote to you about per him. I have also mentioned sundrys wanted which you'l please to have forwarded on to me as quick as possible with the Remainder of Cloathing Chalk Shirts and Chalk Lines. I wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay the eighteenth of December per Captain Low.

I am Sir,  
With Respect

JW: DQMG<sup>l</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

C. Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. 1778

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

The Stores per Connar and Park as per Invoice of the 8<sup>th</sup>. Instant agreed all to three pair Blankets in Bale N<sup>o</sup>. 3, short — and those sent p. Parker and Mecklin came to Hand yesterday. One of the Casks marked 2.2.25 was found on examination to be mark'd 2.2.15 — the latter exact Weight as I suppose.

I should be glad you would let me know the price of the Cloathing as a part was issued to some of the Artificers whose Times are out and want to make a Settlement with the General. I have been carefull to distinguish the Cloathing when issued and would have you price them for which purpose have sent you a List of the kind and Colours come to hand at different times. There will be sundry kinds of Apparel still wanting of which Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox will order to Compleat the Returns. I would advise your sending me Pr. first Waggon coming with Stores ten or fifteen Rheams of good Writing Paper for the use of the General Officers &c. with 4 or 500 Quills some Boxes Wafers and lb<sup>s</sup>. Sealing Wax.

I am With Respect  
Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Colonel Mitchell D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

P.S.

The General has a Return of the Cloathing still wanted consisting of Two Hundred and fifty three P. Breeches Six P. Stockings and Forty four Hats which you will find on Examination, but would advise about One Hundred Coats Vests &c. in proportion



and exclusive of the above Ballance to be sent on especially of Shoes Stockings Shirts and Blankets which last Articles have hitherto come but very small.

J.W.

Camp Middle Brook Decr. 20<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Dr. Sir,

Inclosed you have a Receipt for the Stores brot. by Silas Gildersleve Waggoner all Corresponding, save the files which on examination you will find not right and shall want a considerable Number for the use of the Hand and Cross cut Saws, and of which have to request you will forward with the other Articles wrote for per Mr. Elmer W<sup>a</sup>. Master<sup>20</sup> in charge with Cloathing for Colonel Hay. You will please to include Chalk Lines and forward all the spare Cloathing you may have on Hand with the Stove in particular of which last should be glad to know if can be sent.

I have sent per Return of Gildersleve three P<sup>r</sup>. Blankets N<sup>o</sup>. 4 for your use as requested and also a Box just come to Hand from Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell.

I am Sir,

Yours &c.

JW. D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

[Addressee not given]

Camp Middle Brook Decr. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1778

Sir,

General Green left off this Day with his Lady for Philadelphia. The Stores sent per William Park came to hand last Night and all right. I have to request you will please to send in Addition to what Stores has come to hand about Six or Seven Hundred Axes as mine go fast and not above Three or Four Hundred on hand. Cross Cut Saws are also disposed of, and request you will forward

<sup>20</sup> The mention of the wagoner and the wagon master in this and other letters is of some interest in that three months later (March 16, 1779) the Congress adopted a resolution that General Washington be directed to "take proper measures for causing to be enlisted a number of wagoners as he shall judge necessary for the service, to continue therein to the end of the war . . ." The reason for this action was the "discontent, loss of discipline, and diminution of the strength of the line, having arisen by employing the continental troops as wagoners . . ." (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XIII, p. 320)





about fifteen or Twenty if in Store. The files for the Saws am greatly in want of would be glad you could furnish me with a greater Number to be in time before the Troops halt which go on fast. The General has given me leave of Absence to return Home during the Holidays any Orders from Mr. Tenbrook or Meng in my Absence beg may be complied with. The Stove mentioned to you before, beg may be sent if possible with Pipes made to lead out at the Window, which may be Seven or Eight feet high, including the Measurement. If any Books have come to Hand from Philadelphia for me, would be glad you would forward them. I mean such; as once wrote to you for, for the use of the Brigade QMasters. The large Return Books, or those you was pleased to say I should have, beg may be sent on likewise.

You will observe I have wrote you latterly at various times, and for Various Articles you may find are not sent, would have you to forward.

The General also desired I would write you in particular to send one of your Tent Makers in a few Days to attend and examine the Tents as they may be sent in by the Brigade QMasters, that those wanting repair may immediately be set to Work at, or sent from here for Repair.

I am with Respect  
Your very Hble. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

From Mr. Ten Brook

Camp Middle Brook Dec<sup>r</sup>. 29<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

Mr. Weiss left this the 23<sup>d</sup>. Instant in order to proceed home, previous to which he wrote you to forward Axes and sundry other Stores, none of which have yet come to Hand. If they are not on the Road when this reaches you, must beg you'll immediately forward five or Six Hundred Axes, as we have not one left, and hourly applications are making for them, which I am afraid will Occasion great Complaints unless we have a supply shortly.

I am Sir,  
Your very Hble. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Cornel<sup>s</sup>. Ten Broeck

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.



Copy of Sam<sup>l</sup>. Gilmore WMaster [. . . tions] given in November last.

Camp Quaker Hill Nov<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1778

Sir,

You'll proceed from this place to Middle Brook by way of Kings Ferry and make inquiry there for me or M<sup>r</sup>. John Shute D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>. should I not be there myself. As soon as the Stores may arrive you'll please to deliver them carefully unto M<sup>r</sup>. Shute whom I have empowered to receive the same in my absence when you arrive at Middle Brook in the Jerseys where the Encampment had formerly been you'll inquire where the late Q.M.Gen<sup>ls</sup>. Stores had been kept and there or in that Neighbourhood you'll find either of us. Should you find it in any ways dangerous going toward Middle Brook would have you to repair to Morris Town and deliver the Stores to James Abeel Esq<sup>r</sup>. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>. who will please to Store the same on my Account untill further Directions.

I am &c.

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

M<sup>r</sup>. S. Gilmore

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

I wrote to you at different times, but have received no Answer in Return of either Letters. The last was with Cloathing, which should be glad to know if come to Hand. If Blankets and Shoes should not be found sufficient for the past years Cloathing—you must only write me again and for what may be requisite. The Blankets sent you were rather Small and supposed not large enough for each Man when come to be divided. If you therefore should find it needfull must endeavour to find you more. I mention'd the matter to the Gen<sup>l</sup>. whose Orders first to me were only to deliver a single Blanket per Man, but upon finding they turn'd out so very small, he concluded that a pair of small should go for one [. . .]. So that you can be particular to me in that Respect when you write.

I should be glad you would Please to inform me if any of the Tents have been delivered into your Care by the Brigade QMasters of those Brigades that are on your Side the River and of the Number and situation including Markee and Horseman's Tents. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green is at present in Philadelphia and I seem'd to understand of him before his Departure from here that there were Orders given in behalf of that maker if so am satisfy'd.

As I have the direction of Camp Equipage in the Army it will be requisite for me to know what has or may be delivered at the





different Posts by the Brigade QMasters in your District who are accountable and are to make a Settlement accordingly for all Camp Equipage drawn. It will be very proper you would render me a general Account of what Stores in the Camp Equipage may have been drawn from you for the use of the Army by particular Officers or persons acting therein and P. whose Order (particularly for Tents drawn).

I have delivered the General a Return of all the Portmanteaus I have issued (and to Whom). You had better send me an Account of what has been drawn from you that they may be included. The prices will also be necessary to be added or distinguished to me from whom they might have been sent. Underneath you have the Names of the Brigade QMasters who drew the Stores for the Brigades separately. Should think it prudent to write to each in behalf of the Tents would therefore advice your taking the Trouble of doing it as you lie so much Handier and can Order them in for repair Quickly. The General wants much to know the Situation of the Tents &c. and in particular what Number may be thot. and found servicable. You will please to write Mr. Starr, with Instructions in like manner. In the mean time I remain with due Respect, Your very Humble

Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W.: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Udney Hay  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Gen <sup>l</sup> . Paterson's Brigade	Timothy Whiting
Gen <sup>l</sup> . Poor's D <sup>o</sup> .	Dudley S. Chasd
Gen <sup>l</sup> . Nixon's D <sup>o</sup> .	Isaac Nicholls
Gen <sup>l</sup> . Parson's D <sup>o</sup> .	Simeon Belding
Lte. Learned's D <sup>o</sup> .	Rob <sup>t</sup> . Bradford
Gen <sup>l</sup> . Clinton's D <sup>o</sup> .	Tunis V. Wagenen
Gen <sup>l</sup> . Huntingdon's D <sup>o</sup> .	Thadeus Weed

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I this Day received yours of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Instant acknowledging Receipt of my two Letters dated 16<sup>th</sup>. & 18<sup>th</sup>. Decemb<sup>r</sup>. last. I wrote you this Day a few Hours before Yours came to Hand P. favor of Lieutenant Jewett one of Our Artificers going to New England. Inclosed you have a Copy of the Cloathing sent as P<sup>r</sup>. Invoice dated 16<sup>th</sup>. Ult. which am glad arrived safe and were found to Correspond. Major Hale has not called to see me, but



expect he will on his Return from Philadelphia. I have nothing further to add, save my best Respects to M<sup>rs</sup>. Hay and Family and the same to the Gentlemen of your Department and Remain with Esteem

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. & Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook January 14<sup>th</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I request the favor of your informing me where M<sup>r</sup>. Burchan now keeps with the Stores and likewise to deliver or forward the Enclosed to him. I wrote to him some time past but never received an Answer. I supposed his being at Danbury but have received Information from M<sup>r</sup>. Starr ADQMG<sup>l</sup>. of his not being there. I imagine you must have received Instructions from the Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>. or some of his Assistants respecting the Tents when the Troops are hutted to be delivered into Store for repair.

Your next or nearest place will be Fish Kill to Colonel Hay. As you have had the care of the Division in the QM<sup>r</sup>. Line, it will be your Business to see, or call on the other Brigade QMasters to have all the Tents carefully delivered in for Repair. M<sup>r</sup>. Burchan will assist you in any thing needfull or Necessary that way. You will write me per first Opportunity to this place, with an Account of Tents &c. on Hand. The situation also of them, meaning Markees Horsemans, and Common Tents whether serviceable wanting repair or unfit. In expectation of hearing from you

I remain,

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

M<sup>r</sup>. Timothy Whiting  
Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. Paterson's Brigade

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

I wrote you twice, once from Quaker Hill by M<sup>r</sup>. Joseph Dyre WMaster, pr. whom I forwarded you Sixty Dollars Cash, and Sundry Stores; which you never acknowledged to have received, since which I have wrote you from here, inclosed in a Letter to





Mr. Starr, from whom I lately received Accounts that he could not understand where you were, being anxious of hearing from you, have to request you will write me immediately, and with respect to the Situation of the Stores: Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene desired my fixing you with Mr. Starr AD.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>. at Danbury, to which purpose I wrote you, should be glad to understand if those Letters have come to Hand. I have wrote to Mr. Whiting pr. this Opportunity, and have mentioned that you will assist him in any Matter needfull, which if together, expect, and have to request you will.

The Tents Markees and Horsemans Tents have wrote Mr. Whiting to have sent to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay at Fish Kill as soon as the Troops are in their Hutts, if not already done. You will rehearse the matter to him and likewise inform me how things have gone on respecting what belongs to our Department and if the Tents &c. in particular have been sent from the Division to any place for Repair. You must also request an Account, or Disposition of the Tents to be given or made out to you, when, and when Delivered, and forward me with an Account Current of your Proceedings in the Store way. Mr. Whiting will do this piece of Service to see that you receive a true State from the Brigade Q.Masters in the Division concerning the Tents &c. Have no more to add save requesting your immediate Answer, and remain

Your very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup>. Burchan

N.B. You'll Continue in your present Situation till you hear from me.

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup> 1779

Sir,

I am desirous of knowing what Number of Tents Markees and Horsemans Tents are on Hand in your Brigade, and if sent as yet to any place for repairs and Storage during the Winter. Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>. at Morris Town is to receive the whole of Tents &c. for Inspection; and repair. You will therefore take notice that the whole must be sent to him if not already done, as soon as all the Men are either Hutted or Billested for Winter Quarters. The sooner sent the earlier in readiness for another Campaign. Inform me when you receive such Stores as are requisite for the Brigade. Colonel Abeel has Stores of various kinds, should the distance be shorter from Morris Town to where you live, than this, make application to him for such matters as are requisite and customary for the Brigade. Your getting a line from the



Commandant of the Brigade or Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel will answer every purpose in obtaining Stores from thence, and what might be had there, may be drawn from here. In expectation of your Answer shall wait and remain

Your Very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Cha<sup>s</sup>. Stewart Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D. Brigade

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 21<sup>st</sup>. 1779

Sir,

You will receive per Waggoners Connor and Park Nineteen Common Tents and one Horsemans D<sup>o</sup>. with a Box of Sundry Tools, also Six Anvils and three Beck Irons, which last came from Colonel Mitchell. I should be glad if you could send me two or three Dozen Hand Saw Files, and some Sealing Wax, which am out of at present.

I am, Sir

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Please to forward the two enclosed Letters P. a safe Opportunity. The Letter with you while at Morris Town for M<sup>r</sup>. Oakley at Bethlehem never came to Hand. Should be glad to know who it was sent by.

J.W.

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

The Bearer Capt<sup>n</sup>. Marbury will deliver you the Tents of the first Maryland Brigade, and you will also receive Sixty more, which I have sent, and when found right please to inform me Col<sup>o</sup>. Baldwin of Artificers has requested my sending for the within mentioned Articles, which if you can any ways spare, you will please to send me, or let me know; that I may see to get them from Philadelphia. Captain Bruen informs me there is a person with you, and to the best of my Remembrance Morrison by Name; that is a Sadler by trade, whom if you can any ways spare, would be doing the publick great Service to let him come for a Week or two, to take the direction of a few Work men. I meant to draw out of some of





the Regiments to repair the Harness deliver'd into Store by the W.Master General. I have wrote to Philadelphia both for Men and materials and as soon as they arrive he shall be dismiss'd. You will please to send me Leather and such materials as you can spare and may judge will be requisite, till those arrive from below, and you'll much oblige

Your very Hble. Servant

J.W: D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Colonel Abeel D.Q.MGen<sup>l</sup>.

NB: I saw a curious kind of Padlock that you have in Store; part of the Key Screws, should be glad you would send me a couple, and if you have any Closet or Door Locks please to send about a Dozen of each.

JW.

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

Major Forsyth informs me he wrote you (or Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox) some time past to send to Camp some Harness Makers and a Barrell or two of Oyl, neither of which have yet arrived. I must therefore request their being sent as quick as possible as its high time something should be done with the Harness delivered into Store from the Teams broke up. Mr. Hiltzheimer has one Pote a Master Workman whom if he could spare would be very suitable provided a Hand or two could be sent with him. pray endeavour to send him as it will require some thrifty Hand to be in that Way. I have not an Inch of Leather nor other materials suitable so that it will be requisite to have what may be necessary sent on.

I shall want the following Articles . . . Viz<sup>t</sup>.

- 10 or 15 Rheams best kind Writing Paper
- 6 or 8 Pounds Scaling Wax
- 3 or 4 Hundred Quills
- 8 or 10 Blank Printed Files
- 2 or 3 Dozen Chest Locks different Sizes
- 1 or 2 Dozen Door and Closet Locks
- 2 or 3 Groce of Inch and Inch and half Wood Screws
- 15 or 20 Doz. Gimblets different Sizes
- 3 or 4 Casks of 8.10 & 12<sup>d</sup>. Nails
- 2 or 3 Dozen Cross Cut Saw Files

Please to let the above be sent by the first Waggons coming to Camp.



I understand you have some tolerable good Cloths in Store such as Blues, Buffs &c. pray be so kind as to let me know what Colour and Prices — with a few Patterns. The Price of the Cloathing I am continually pestered about. do be so good as to let me know by the next Opportunity and you'll much oblige

Your very Humble Servant

J.W:

Dep<sup>y</sup> QMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I wrote you the 14<sup>th</sup>. Instant, and likewise received your last favour which I also answered immediately with an Account enclosed of the Cloathing sent by D. Elmer Waggon Master. I this Day receiv'd a Letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Burchan one of my Asst<sup>s</sup>. who was Detatch'd with some Stores to the left Wing on our March from White Plains. I concluded and seem'd to understand by Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene that the Division would Quarter this Winter at or near Danbury, and was requested to let him remain there under the Care of Major Starr, as he was acquainted to the ways of the Army, and might be of Service to him in the Store Way. I find he is in or about your parts and its probable is not wanted, I conclude it will be best for him to come on for this place, as you have M<sup>r</sup>. Chandonet at the Fort, and can supply him with such Stores as may be requisite during the Winter — Shall therefore take it kind if you'll please to receive such Stores as he may have on Hand or Order them to be Delivered to some one of your Assistants there, where I understand they now are — The enclosed you will also please to forward him and should he want a trifle of Money please to Advance him Forty or Fifty Dollars. In doing of which, you'll much oblige

Your very Humble Servant

J:W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.





Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

Yours of the 26<sup>th</sup> of last Month only came to Hand this day. I was much concern'd in not hearing from you before.

I have wrote Colonel Hay in behalf of you per this Opportunity, and respecting the Stores you may have on Hand. Should he find it not requisite for your Continuance at West-Point you will then come on for this place as fast as you possibly can so as not to hurt yourself or Horse. You will be exceeding carefull in delivering up what Stores you have on Hand, taking Receipts for the same, and bring all your Writings &c. with you. I wrote you lately by Mr. Jewett which Letter I suppose has come to Hand. Mr. Whiting to whom I also wrote per same Opportunity hope will send an Answer in behalf of the same. So conclude and remain

Your very Humble Servant

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup>. Burchan

N:B:

Inclosed you have an Order on Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay for fifty Dollars — would have you to see that the Store Waggon &c. are carefully delivered up, with all the Tackling particularly specified.

Camp Middle Brook Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

I received your favour about a Week or ten Days ago — and was much surprised Mr. Burchan was not with you. — I this day received a Letter from him and find he is with Gen<sup>l</sup>. Patersons Brigade at West Point. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green has concluded it would be best for him to remain and assist you provided the left Wing had Winter'd in or about Danbury, in consequence of which I wrote him with Instructions, but believe my Letters were mislaid or miss'd coming to Hand time enough.

I have wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay respecting him and to receive what Stores he may have on Hand and to order him on to this place. I should be glad you would see that the Tents among the Troops your way are delivered in for repair by the B.Q.M<sup>rs</sup>. or if you have done it already to inform me, and of their situation and what may be suitable for the Ensuing Campaign. I have wrote to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay



who will [ . . . ] into the matter whom you will consult with, both in that respect and in regard to Stores, which as I mentioned to you may be drawn from him when requisite.

Am Sir,

Your most Hble. Servant,

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Major Starr A.D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Febr. 2<sup>d</sup> 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I wrote you the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult. since which have received two Tierces of Oyl. Should be glad you would compleat and send the Stores, agreeable to the same which are much wanted. You will also please to send the within mentioned Articles for the Use of the Artificers.

Mr. Nice arrived yesterday and will want materials in his way, agreeable to Memorandum also inclosed, which beg may be forwarded with all dispatch —

I have endeavoured to draw Leather &c. from Morris Town but Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel writes me he has none to spare. I would advise your sending me a Quantity of Mens Shoes, midling large Sized, and remain with Respect

Your very Humble Servt.

J.W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Febr. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I wrote you the 14<sup>th</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup>. in answer to yours which I suppose has come to Hand. I sent you on the 17<sup>th</sup>. of November last Sundry Cloathing intended for the enlisted Waggoners, and at the request of Col<sup>o</sup>. James Thompson W.M<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>. who has wrote to you pr. the Bearer Major Rooney DWMG<sup>l</sup>. with an Order to receive a part of the same and which you'll please to comply with. The remainder of what you may have on Hand, you'll please to deliver to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay, or his Order who wrote me of his being very much in want of the same. I have also wrote him per this Opportunity





should be glad you would inform me respecting the Tents as mentioned in my last to you, and also acquaint me of what Cloathing you sent to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green is at present in Philadelphia, and wait his coming to Camp every Day.

I am, with Respect, Sir

Your very Humb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW: — D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Major Starr,  
A.D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Febr<sup>y</sup>. 3<sup>d</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I herewith send you five Teams loaded with Tents — as P<sup>r</sup>. Receipt inclosed, and under the care of Thomas Young one of the Waggoners, when found to correspond please to inform me. I should be glad you would send the Articles wrote for in my last with the large Return lists and also the under mention'd Articles — much wanted. I have this day wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay who has apply'd for more Cloathing and mentions the Shirts you sent him are quite too coarse and that his Men refuse drawing them. If you have any of a better Quality than those sent me, would request them being sent here. I mention'd some time ago that I have sent about 1000 Y<sup>ds</sup>. Linnen to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay from Quaker Hill, would think it well if you were to send for it having mentioned the matter to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay, by this Opportunity and that you may probably send for it, or that he had better send it for the use of Shirt-ing &c.

Yours &c.

J:W: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel

Some Harness Leather if possible  
6 or 8 lb fine Thread for Sadlers Use  
6 or 8 lb Rosen  
3 or 4 Dozen Stock Locks — sorted

I have several Dozen Sail Makers Palms in Store, if you wanted inform me. — I also expect I shall want Eighteen Panes Glass. Should be glad to know by Return of Waggoners if they can be had.

JW.



Camp Middle Brook Febr. 4<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I received your favour the 14<sup>th</sup>. of last Month with the Returns of Cloathing &c. I have wrote Major Starr Pr. the Bearer Mr. Rooney D.W.M.G<sup>l</sup>. to let you have the Remainder of what Cloathing he may have on Hand which when first sent him were as P. enclosed Acc<sup>t</sup>. and wont be much Short of the same as the Cloathing were only intended for the Teamsters in Gen<sup>l</sup>. Gates's Division under the Bearer Mr. Rooney who informs me has drawn none and will only want about Thirty Shirts. I also enclose you a second Copy of the Cloathing sent by Mr. Elmer WMaster with an Account anent which is drawn out agreeable to your Return sent the General and dated the first December last, by which you will see the Cloathing already sent you nearly corresponds with what you wrote for. The Gen<sup>l</sup>. as I observed to you in one of my former Letters will not furnish Cloathing for the Year 77. that matter must be settled with the late Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. either in pay or otherwise — Nevertheless rather than Business should be retarded I will send you a greater proportion in a day or two, which you will be particular in having charged to such as aynt entitled by way of Bounty. The Shirts were sent you by Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel am sorry they were no better and those I have on Hand are of the same Quality. The Box of Linnen sent you from Quaker Hill is very suitable for the purpose would advise your sending it to Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel to be work'd up into Shirts, provided you can't get it done your way. In regard to the Tents, I would advise your going to the B.Q.M<sup>rs</sup>. to have them hurry'd in as fast as possible for repair and when done under me a return of the same, to compare with my Issues. I wrote you respecting Mr. Burchan and what Stores he may have on Hand, beg your taking them in charge, and hurry him on for this place as fast as possible — I wrote him with an Order to draw Fifty Dollars, should he want Cash, You'l please to comply, in doing of which, you'll much oblige

Your very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.





Camp Middle Brook Feby. 5<sup>th</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I have sent the bearer M<sup>r</sup>. Pryor, in behalf of the following Stores for the use of the Harness Makers which were wrote for the 2<sup>d</sup>. Ins<sup>t</sup>. and will be immediately wanted. You will see that they are hurried on as quick as possible and let the Bearer return immediately.

- 3 Doz. Sides Harness Leather chiefly blackn'd, if possible
- 3 Doz. Calf Skins
- 3 Doz. Sheep Skins Tann'd
- 15 or 20 lb<sup>s</sup>. Thread suitable for Sadlers
- 15 or 20 lb<sup>s</sup>. Rosin
- 1000 Clout Nails Sorted
- 30 or 40 Yd<sup>s</sup>. Tow Cloth, for lining Collars and Pads
- 4 Doz. Sadlers Needles
- 50 Doz<sup>n</sup>. Blind Bridle Buckles Sorted

I am Sir

Yours &c.

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Feby. 12<sup>th</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I wrote you the 26<sup>th</sup> Ult the Contents of which was to deliver your Stores to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay, D.Q.M.General or his Order, and come for Head Quarters with your Accounts Vouchers &c. I also enclosed you an Order on him for fifty Dollars towards your Expence Money and Acc<sup>ts</sup>. for which you are to be accountable to me. I expect you'll take particular Care, in what Stores you deliver over to him or to whom he may direct. I have wrote him concerning you, both before & at this Opportunity.

I am with Respect

Your very Hb<sup>le</sup>. Servant

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

M<sup>r</sup>. Rich<sup>d</sup>. Burchan



Camp Middle Brook Febr. 19<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

Inclosed you have an Invoice of five Boxes of Cloathing which you'l please to have forwarded to Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>. at Fish Kill with the enclosed Letter —

These Teams wont be able to proceed and as the General is very desirous of having the Cloathing forwarded you will please to have it done, and let these Waggon Return. The Boxes were well secured here, should they want any further Securing you will please to have it done — In the mean time I remain with Respect,

Yours &c

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel

N.B. If you have any Number of Mens Shoes in Store you will please to send Two Hundred Pair, with the Clothing for Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay.

JW: —

Camp Middle Brook Febr. 19<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

Inclosed you have an Invoice of five Boxes of Cloathing sent to the Care of Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel — who is to forward them on for Fish Kill, and to whom I have wrote Pr. same Opportunity when found to correspond you will please to inform me. I have requested Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel to forward you two Hundred Pair Mens Shoes if at Morris — The Shirts now sent you are in my Opinion of the same kind that you received from him as there were sent me by him —

I wrote some time past to Philad<sup>a</sup>. for a better supply of Shirts, Shoes, Stockings and Blankets — which when come to Hand, shall forward you, in the mean while, I remain

Your very Humble Servant

JW. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.





Camp Middle Brook Feb<sup>y</sup>. 21<sup>st</sup> 1779

Dr. Sir,

Mr. Pryor whom I sent from here the 5<sup>th</sup>. of this Month, has returned near a Week past and no prospect of any Leather as yet come to hand — beg you will please to Order it on without delay with the other Articles mentigned. — The Artificers are much in Want of the Bellows, and some of the Smiths almost Idle for the want of them. I received a part of Stores sent by Joshua Opdike Waggon Conductor — You will order the remainder of Nails to be sent on to compleat the Quantity or Number of Casks mentioned, with 10 or a Doz. Pounds good Sealing Wax, and four or five Dozen Pap<sup>rs</sup>. Ink Powder both of which last am much in want of and at the Gen<sup>l</sup>s. request to be sent on —

You will also please to have Two Hundred Blank Folio Books made and sent as soon as possible for the use of the Quarter Masters Pay-Masters Brigade Majors and Adjutants, all of whom the Gen<sup>l</sup>. requests may be furnish'd as quick as possible.

Mr. Loxley can describe the kind or Size to Mr. Henderson —

I am with Respect

Sir,

Your Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW: D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell  
D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Feb<sup>y</sup>. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I beg you will please to have the Leather with the other matters hurried on for the Use of the Saddlers, who are much in want of them and will be Idle in six or eight Days unless they are forwarded immediately — the other Stores with the Bellows &c. came to Hand yesterday evening for which have Receipts to the Waggoners. I shall immediately want about 200 blank folio Books made of the same smallish kind sent some time last Fall, for the use of the Brigade Majors Quarter-Masters, Pay-Masters and Adjutants. These you will please to have sent on as quick as you possibly can with a Dozen lb<sup>s</sup>. best Sealing Wax Twelve Doz. Papers Ink Powder some of best Quality and half a Doz. Ink Stands —

Shall also want fifteen or Twenty Doz. Gimblets — those in Store are chiefly too small and others too large. You will also please to send three or four Doz: Hand-Saw Files. Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay



returns for Seventy Six Blankets to compleat his Men, you will therefore please to send about a Hundred Blankets<sup>21</sup> P. first Opportunity, as so to have them forwarded in time, as he mentions their being much wanted.

I am With Respect

Your very Hble. Servt.

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Camp Middle Brook Feb<sup>y</sup>. 23<sup>d</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I herewith enclose you a Return of the Stores taken the twelfth Instant, Copy of which have delivered the Gen<sup>l</sup>. — I should be glad to receive your Instructions in time provided you mean to have the Stores on any other footing after the second of March which is now very near at Hand.

I would also observe to you of the Tents in general delivered into Store to be much worse for Wear, and that there will be a Considerable Number wanted (including Horsemans Tents), when the Campaign comes to open —

Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay is to transmit me the Returns from the Brigade Q. Masters, shortly in regard to the Tents Situation &c. Which when come to Hand will immediately forward you, in the mean while expect to hear from you with full Instructions and remain

Sir

Your very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW: D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox<sup>22</sup> A.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>21</sup> A serious complaint in reference to the shortage of blankets was reported by the Board of War, dated March 2, 1779: "Vessels are daily arriving with goods into the different Ports, and at every place there are private purchasers sufficiently enabled by their wealth to buy up all the arrivals. Among other Articles, there are seventeen hundred blankets which the public may have from a gentleman who has imported them . . . We must therefore entreat Congress to excuse us if we press the necessity of appointing some purchasers to buy up the Articles wanted by the Army . . ." (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XIII, p. 273)

<sup>22</sup> Three months earlier, Congress had issued a warrant on the treasurer in favor of Colonel Cox for \$3,500,000, for the use of the quartermaster department. This was in addition to warrants for \$2,000,000, issued on August 4, 1778. Such grants of money gave Congress some apprehension, for on the same date it was "Ordered, That the Committee on the Treasury lay before Congress an account of the sums of money granted to the present quartermaster general for the use of his department; . . . [and] That a Committee be appointed to repair to camp to confer with General Washington on the best mode of introducing economy . . . and retrenching the enormous expence of the same."





Camp Middle Brook Febr. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

I wrote you the 19<sup>th</sup>. Inst. with five Boxes Cloathing for Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay and now send you two more, which you'll likewise please to have forwarded on Immediately — I have also sent you sundries as P. Receipt enclosed, will send you more Stockings as soon as I receive a fresh supply which I look for every Hour. I should be glad if you have any Number of Blank folio Books to send them being much wanted for Pay Masters QMasters Brigade Majors and Adjutants. I am also out of Sealing Wax and Ink Powder, should be glad if you can to send me a proportion of each, & you'll much oblige

Your Very Hble. Servant

JW: D.Q.M.G<sup>t</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel

[Same date as above another letter with similar contents to Col. Hay was entered. Because of the frequent repetition of content in many of the letters which follow, we have selected in many instances only excerpts which add to our understanding of the problems faced by Colonel Weiss.]

[Excerpt from letter dated Camp Middle Brook, April 2, 1779, to Col. Mitchell]

I have wrote you at sundry times respecting the prices of Cloathing, and have to request you will let me know what I am to charge for the following Kinds — Viz<sup>t</sup>. Coats, Vests, Breeches, Stockings, Shirts, Shoes, Hats, Blankets & Surtouts.

Unless I am informed ere long, expect we shall lose the pay of sundry Cloathing that has been drawn by Men not entitled, any further than for pay.

[Excerpt from letter dated Camp Middle Brook, April 8, 1779, to Col. Hay]

N.B. I wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel with respect to the Cloathing that are deficient. The Boxes went from here in good Order, which he acknowledges to have received, and is of Opinion they must have been broke open by the Person or Persons who had the charge of them from him to you — .

JW —

[Letter to Col. John Mitchell from Camp Middle Brook, April 9, 1779, we omit. Its contents are identical to a previously written letter.]



[Excerpt from letter to Col. Udney Hay from Camp Middle Brook, April 19, 1779]

Sir,

I received your favour of the 10<sup>th</sup>. Inst<sup>t</sup>. respecting those Returns the intentions of which are to shew what Officers drew Portmanteaus in case you may receive Instructions to Issue hereafter to such as have not drawn.

Congress you will find by the enclosed Resolve intends that every Officer shall be furnished with a Portmanteau or Valeece . . .

[Weiss did not enter the "Resolve" into his letter book. The "Resolve" was the direct action taken as a result of a report from the Board of War of February 16, 1779, which read: "The Quarter Master General, when in Town lately, reminded the Board of an application he made some months ago for direction relative to the portmanteaus and valeeces he had provided pursuant to the orders of the Commander in Chief, to rid the army of the incumbrance of chests and boxes: As the Service did not admit of the smallest delay in the distribution (the Army being then in daily expectation of moving), they were immediately issued to the Officers, who were charged with them, but with an expectation from various considerations, that they should not be obliged to pay for them. The Board have conversed with the Quarter Master General fully on the subject: and beg leave to declare their entire concurrence in opinion with him."]

[To Col. Abeel, from Camp Middle Brook, May 7, 1779]

I had some expectations of sending Waggon's but am disappointed and would have you to procure Teams immediately and forward the under-mentioned Articles particularly the Canteens and Knapsacks of which am very bare, and are much wanted.

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene has ordered a party of five Men (Sadlers) here from Philadelphia and have to request you will send what Calf & Sheep Skins you possibly can spare, to keep them employed repairing Geers &c . . . <sup>23</sup>

[Among the Stores requested were "2 or 3000 Canteens" and a footnote,

If you have an Assortment of Wooden Bowls send a Quantity & what Waggon Covers you may have on Hand, also half a Ton of flat Bar Iron & Twelve Bars Steel.]

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<sup>23</sup> It is evident from the blackness of the writing in the letter book that Weiss by this date had received ink powder, an item he had called for on February 26<sup>th</sup>, previous.





[Excerpt from letter to Col. Mitchell, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 7, 1779]

. . . If you have not a sufficiency of Bags in Store Mr. Hollingsworth at Elk returns 550 and Colonel Sheriff about 300, would have you write for them to make up the Complement order'd which with the Stores mentioned for the Waggon Department are wanted to compcat the Teams at Camp being near 300 in Number . . . Mr. Nice is here at Camp with his Men and has no Leather to work upon, . . . He tells me Mr. Leshar at Germantown has about 20 Calf Skins for sale please to send for them, . . .

[The memorandum on this page<sup>24</sup> from the letter of the preceding page lists as needed among other items:

- 3000 Knapsacks, all painted if possible
- 3000 good Canteens
- 400 Water Buckets
- 300 Waggon Covers
- 350 Rope and Leather leading Lines
- 1 Keg of Painters Oyl]

[Excerpt from letter to Col. Mitchell, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 9, 1779]

. . . Mr. Nice has his Orders from the Gen<sup>l</sup>. to repair to Philadelphia and Germantown in quest of Leather &c., and beg he maynt return untill he procures an Assortment . . .

Camp Middle Brook May 9<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

Please to forward Gen<sup>l</sup>. Arnolds Baggage by order of the Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. consisting of One Hair Trunk three Boxes One Bundle Bedding and one double Barrell'd Gun, sent me by Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel, and to be sent the Gen<sup>l</sup>. at Philadelphia.

I am with Respect

Your very Humble Servant

JW — D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Major Gordon  
Q.M<sup>r</sup>. Trenton

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<sup>24</sup>Page 70 of the Letter Book.



[An unusual list of stores "absolutely wanted" and with all speed "for the Campaign" is appended to a letter to Col. Mitchell, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 13th, 1779]

- 5 Dozen Hand Saw Files
- 5 D°. flat                      D°.
- 2 D°. half round        D°.
- 1 D°. Rat Tail'd        D°.
- 2 D°. x cut Saw        D°.
- 1½ D°. Tenon Saws
- 4 Smoothing Planes
- 1 D°. Plane Irons — sorted
- 1 D°. Claw Hammers
- 6 Dozen Chalk Lines
- 4 D°. Chest Hinges
- 5 D°. Padlocks, chief of a large Size
- 3 Dozen Chest Locks
- 3 Dozen Splinter Padlocks

[Weiss was too conscientious to permit criticism of his conduct of the department to go unnoticed. In the following letter it is evident he lost his patience and almost his temper. Evidently, Colonel Abeel replied to this letter in a manner distasteful to Weiss. Nine days later he again set Colonel Abeel straight in the matter. See his letter of May 26th, which follows]

Camp Middle Brook May 17<sup>th</sup>. 1779.

Sir,

Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup>. Inst. was handed me by one of Mr. Hows Assistants from the Park with sundry Stores part of which he thought proper to keep and shall charge him for the same. The Knapsacks fall short nine and Orderly Books Twenty Three — The Box with Books came broke — I observe what you say relative to my Letter sent by Mr. Loxley, and am astonished that Colonel Abeel writes me in such a strange and particular manner knowing no Reason why he should have occasion to do so unless I must have given some offence heretofore, which if to be the case should be glad to be made sensible and will make proper concessions for my bad Conduct at any time if required. In the mean while I dont think it was worth while for Col°. Abeel to put himself in such an ill frame with regard to my Civil Request, and would have him to know that whatever I do or write for in regard to Stores is with the General's full approbation and as for what Camp Equipage I may have over or under I dont think it concerns Col°.





Abeel in the least, it being my Business to have a sufficiency for the Troops —. Whenever Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel finds me out of the line of my Duty would have him in future state the Case to the General and not put himself to unnecessary Words with Mr. Loxley or any one I may have occasion to send hereafter. If the General had thought me incapable of my Duty I dare say he would long have dismissed me, and while I continue and am not discharged, and may have Occasion to write Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel very often would request him not to be troubled about my having too many Stores on Hand but rather answer me on the Subject wrote him and comply with such Orders as I may have Reason to send for the good of the Service.

I herewith enclose you a Copy of the Receipt sent for the Geers that came down should be glad you would see and have the Invoices rectified, as you may depend upon the Stores received, are agreeable to the same.

The General would have Seventy Tents immediately sent down that are much wanted for a detached Party and also the Markees that Mr. Olney wrote you about, you will therefore please to have them forwarded here without delay and also let me know about the Waggon Covers wrote for which the General seems to think you have in Store — Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson will want about Three Hundred so that you may send down what you may have on Hand.

To Conclude, — Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel may depend that whatever Stores are wrote for by me or any of my Assistants in my Absence will be with the Generals full approbation, and if not complied with, will leave him to judge whether it might not be attended with ill Consequences.

I remain Sir,

Your Very Humble Servant

JW — . D.Q.M. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.MGen<sup>l</sup>.

[Letter dated Camp Middle Brook, May 19, 1779, to Major Gordon, Trenton]

... I would not have you forward any more Camp Kettles, having already a greater supply than requisite. The general advises your having them Stored.

[Part of letter from Camp Middle Brook, May 20, 1779, to John Cox Esq., A.Q.M.Gen.]

... I should be glad Colonel Mitchell would stop sending any more Winter Cloathing, and would have about a Hundred and fifty Pair of Linnen Frocks and Overalls<sup>25</sup> (large Size) sent forward for the Artificers, who wont be able to work without them and



are repeatedly plaguing me for them. When they are sent should be glad to be informed if they are allowed as Bounty or to be paid for with the prices annent —.

We labour under some difficulty for small Necessarys, which in the course of time will run away with all we get, should be glad if Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox could make Interest for my Mess to draw from the Pennsylvania State Store, Being all Pennsylvanians excepting one. I think it but just that something may be done for the Staff that we may be enabled to rub along. With my best Respects to Mr<sup>rs</sup>. Cox, self and Family, Col<sup>o</sup>. Pettit and his, and likewise Colonel Mitchell and Lady, remain

Sir,  
Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Humble Servant  
J Weiss D.Q. Master General

[Excerpt: to Col. Hay, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 20, 1779]

I saw your letter to the General in regard to Cloathing, and having a very pretty Assortment of Coats Vests Breeches &c. just come to Hand from Philadelphia, would only say that you may expect a snug supply from me in that way, and shall set about packing them tomorrow and have them forwarded to Colonel Abeel with directions to have them sent on to you . . .

[A letter to Mr. Robert Kelso, May 20, 1779, who evidently acted for Col. Abeel, in the latter's absence. Usual instructions, therefore omitted.]

[A letter from Cornelius TenBroeck, dated Camp May 22, 1779, sent to Col. Abeel, care of Jacob Weiss.]

. . . The Cloathing is somewhat wet having received it so, and the Weather not permitting airing it since (have sent it in a covered Waggon) which you will please to have done immediately to prevent it taking damage . . .

[To Col. Hooper, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 23, 1779]

I herewith send you three Teams loaded with Canteens, for the use of the Troops . . . When they have delivered their Loads Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper will please to order them back . . .

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<sup>25</sup> General Washington had this to say about overalls: "As the overall is much preferable to breeches, I would recommend as many of them as possible," Bolton, *The Private Soldier Under Washington*, Scribners, 1902, p. 94, Washington, Jan. 1778 to Gov. Trumbull.





[To Colonel Hooper, to whom Weiss wrote on three consecutive days, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 25, 1779, carefully explaining his previous day's regulation as to issues.]

I wrote you yesterday with Tents Camp Kettles & Knapsacks, sent you for General Poors Brigade. The Horsemen and Common Tents you will understand are a proportion of what I had in Store, which I omitted mentioning to you while I was Writing and now do it that there may be no misunderstanding about the matter among the Officers, if they should complain why there was not a suitable number sent agreeable to the Regulation stated to you.

My notion in regard to the Regulation was only to show you what Number would be allowed provided a suitable Quantity can be obtained in time to compleat the Army, . . .

Camp Middle Brook May 26<sup>th</sup> 1779

Sir,

I Received yours of the 22<sup>d</sup>. and herewith send you Mr. Ten Broecks Letter, with an Account of the Cloathing which I requested him to enclose you yesterday Morning, by Nicholas Poin-dexter W.Mr. who went from here for Morris Town. The Stores I wrote for by Mr. Loxley would have you forward with the greatest dispatch save the Knapsacks, which may rest till another call —.

The Canteens are extremely wanted and should be glad to know by a Hand immediately if they can be sent me with the Breast-Chains, Chain Traces, and all the Markees & Horsemen's Tents lately wrote for or that you may have in Store, of which you'll please to send me an Account that I may order the remainder from Philadelphia, of what you may not be able to supply me. Major Gibb's Markee, you will have dispatched and sent down as quick as possible.

In regard to the affair depending on Mr. Loxley or the Verbal Message I might have given him concerning the Stores; I would have you to understand, Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel, that it never was my Custom to work two ways, or in the manner you mention and should have thought you had known me better than to conjecture such notions with regard to my ordering Mr. Loxley's "pimping, prying and hurrying you in "your Business"—. and which he perfectly denies ever telling you, or that he received such Instructions from me. He informs me you kept telling him "that I was making "a Waggon Master of him, and you'd be damn'd if I was not making a Waggon Master &c.". — and that I was no more than Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greenes Store Keeper and who the *Devil* made me a Dep<sup>y</sup>. Quarter Master General. All such Conversation Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel might have left out, for you may depend upon it I never boasted of my Dep<sup>y</sup>.



Q.Master Gen<sup>l</sup>.ship. I have concerns of more Weight and consequence to think of, and whether Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel esteems me worthy of the Title or no, makes a matter of very little difference to me, and as I dont recollect ever treating Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel with uncivility or indecency (hoping I never shall) would request he would never write me or send me such Messages untill he really finds me to be an *under handed fellow*.

I am over-stocked with Camp Kettles, and would have you send me no Stores but such as I may write for. I want a Dozen or two of good Chest Locks, Hinges and a very great Number of Tent Poles and Horsemans Tent Poles, which forward down. as they are wanted for the Tents. let me know the Number you can supply me with.

I am Sir

Your Very Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW — D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

[Weiss copied two letters written by Cornelius TenBroeck. They were written for Weiss from Camp Middle Brook. The letter of May 26, 1779, dealt with the theft of clothing from boxes sent to Fish Kill,

“ . . . which piece of Villiany hope you may make a Discovery of.” (TenBroeck to Col. Abeel)]

[To Col. Abeel, dated Camp Middle Brook, May 31, 1779. Stressing the need of tents, Weiss wrote that the brigades were actually on moving orders.]

. . . I find there seems to be much complaint about the second handed Tents (and washing) and am fearfull they wont in general be of above five or six Weeks duration, which if to be the case shall be in a bad situation this Summer. — I would advise your exertion in that way to the utmost of your power that I may be able to supply the Troops . . . let me know what I may rely on, as I am obliged to scuffle with the Officers about them.

[To “Mr. Collis Q.M<sup>r</sup> Pluckemin,” dated Camp Middle Brook, June 4, 1779.]

. . . I had hard work to obtain these teams and in consequence of my promise that they should return immediately after delivering their Loads, Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson agreed to letting them go, therefore request you’ I return them without fail.





[From a two-page letter to Col. Cox, A.Q.M.G., which contains a table of quarter master's stores, or a "return," as of June 5, 1779, for the Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania Brigades. Gen. Muhlenberg's Brigade inventory we note only, omitting the inventories for Gen. Knox, Gen. Woodford, the 1st and 2d Maryland, and the 1st and 2d Pennsylvania.]

Gen. Mühlenbergh's Brigade

Stores	"Wanting to Compleat"	"On hand 10 <sup>th</sup> . May and drawn since"
Markees	6	2
Horsemans Tents	46	34
Walled Tents	25	7
Common Tents	335	334
Knapsacks	1409	1649
Canteens	1417	1186
Camp Kettles	(page torn)	315
Portmanteaus	(page torn)	16
"Valeices"	(page torn)	19

[For all brigades the item in greatest short supply was 2,490 canteens.]

Camp Middle Brook June 6<sup>th</sup>. 1779

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I received your Instructions in regard to the Stores and shall make it my Constant Business to get them away. I sent off eleven Teams yesterday to M<sup>r</sup>. Collis's and hope Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson will be able to furnish me with a suitable Number of Teams to carry all off.

I shall start M<sup>r</sup>. Meng with a Brigade early on Monday Morning to follow the Army —

Two Brigades are just come to Hand this Evening and contain such Stores as per Copy of Invoices here enclosed you. I also send you Col<sup>o</sup>. Morgans Letter which I made free to open for the sake of the Invoice. The General may rely on my sending all such Camp Equipage as may be most requisite for the March. I am sorry I had not Teams to send off Horse Shoes and sundry other Stores for the Troops when they marched. I have several Hundred Spontoons<sup>26</sup> come to Hand and shall forward them to Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel if in case they are wanted the General will know when to direct, shall also send the Fascine Knives to Morris [Town].

<sup>26</sup> A short pike carried by commissioned officers.



I purpose writing to Col<sup>o</sup>. Morgan in the Morning — (which is at the requisition of Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson) to have all those cover'd Waggon's come on which he mentions are at Reading.

I have also wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox in regard to the Portmanteaus, Horsemans Tents &c. and have enclosed him a Return of the supply the Troops have received, by which he will send what's still wanting, to compleat them —

In hopes of the British Troops being defeated,

remain, Sir,

Your most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Hb<sup>le</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW. D.Q.M.G<sup>l</sup>.

Honb<sup>l</sup>. Major Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene

[To Col. Jacob Morgan, dated Camp Middle Brook, June 6, 1779, in which Weiss expresses self-satisfaction in procurement of wagons.]

The General [Greene] sett off from here on Friday Morning after the Army. I received a Letter from him wrote at Pumpton of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Inst<sup>t</sup>. The Baggage Waggon's I dare say will please him much. They go on from here in the Morning.

[To Col. Abeel, dated Camp Middle Brook, June 7, 1779]

. . . These two Brigades you will order to return immediately upon delivering their Loads, as they have a considerable Quantity of Stores to haul from hence, and are all the Teams I can procure from Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson, to carry off what Stores I have on Hand — I beg you will see that the Teams are provided with Forage, or sufficient Pasturage, or otherwise they will be knock'd up, — As the Waggon M<sup>rs</sup>. are both Strangers in this part of the Country, and will want Instructions how to proceed with respect to taking Pasturage &c. must request you will put them upon a proper Way, and let them know who the Gentlemen are in authority between this and Morris Town.

Middle Brook June 7<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

You are to proceed with your Brigade of Teams by way of Morris Town to Head Quarters. When you arrive at Morris Town you are to make application to Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel D.Q.M.G., who will give you Instructions how to proceed with safety, and if you judge it will be requisite to have a Guard, when you arrive there, you will make immediate application to him, and for such matters





as may be requisite to enable you to proceed . . . On your way between here and there, you will make proper application to the Magistrates, as you pass each Precinct or Township, and be careful to give regular Certificates for what you may receive, either on the Forage Master Gen<sup>l</sup>., or his Dep<sup>y</sup>. residing in or near the parts where you may happen to Halt. You are not to let your Men or Horses suffer, by any means; and likewise entreat you to keep good Order & Regularity in your Proceedings. All officers Civil, & Military, are hereby requested to aid and assist you

In Behalf of the QMGen<sup>l</sup>.

JW. D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

To Mr. W<sup>m</sup>. Stewart  
W<sup>a</sup> Master

[To Col. Abeel at Morris Town, dated Middle Brook, June 8, 1779, informing Abeel that after Wagon Master William Stewart had left as stated in his letter of the previous day. Jacob Leshar had arrived with a load of portmanteaus and tents; that he (Weiss) had ordered Leshar to proceed with the load to Morris Town, since he had no more wagons and that if Leshar arrived in time Stewart might haul the load should an extra wagon be had.]

[Extract from Minutes of Congress in February 1779, signed by Charles Thompson, Secretary, copied by Weiss. It was a resolution allowing officers to keep portmanteaus and "valieces" for their own use]

. . . provided that no Officer shall be more than once furnished at the publick Expence with the Articles aforesaid unless unavoidably lost, or taken by the Enemy in time of Action —.

[The lack of economy received attention two years earlier:

"There is one thing I wish our Commanders would learn from Genl Howe's letters & that is Oeconomy. They confine their care principally to military abuses, and too much neglect to inspect the quarter master — commisary & medical departments. This is inter Nos."

(From letter by Benjamin Rush to Richard Henry Lee, Jan. 6, 1777. The reference is to a letter from Sir William Howe to the Hessian officer Count von Donop.)

Historical Society of Pennsylvania, *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, Jan. 1954, p. 17]



[To Col. Mitchell, dated Camp Middle Brook, June 8, 1779]

... I received a Letter from the General a few Days ago dated at Pumpton Plains the fifth Inst. to order four Markees and two Horsemans Tents to be forwarded to Easton for Gen<sup>l</sup>. Sullivans Division, and having but two on Hand and a Number of them wanted here, would have you to forward the above Number to the care of Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper without delay . . .

[Weiss apparently did not write too many letters to his superior, Major General Greene. The letter, dated June 9, 1779, we have not inserted here since in it Weiss informed the General of directions issued which had been mentioned in previously copied letters in the letter book. Four other letters of minor detail were sent from Camp New Windsor, one of which dated October 10th we reproduce in full, and another, dated October 19th, we have inserted in part.]

[Excerpt from a lengthy letter, page 105 of the letter book, to Col. John Cox, dated Camp Middle Brook, June 15, 1779]

... I intend visiting my Family for a few Days and to join the Army by the Time the Stores may have got there, having given M<sup>r</sup>. Tenbrook & Meng particular Instructions about the Stores.

[To Col. Mitchell, dated Middle Brook, June 15, 1779, excerpt]

... You must not wonder at the different Orders that may come from me in the Tent Markee & Portmanteau Way, 'tis enough to puzzle a Priest to know what an Army is constantly wanting and I shall always inform you what to forward on application made me.

The Stockings I sent you were some of those that came early last Fall and a number of them proved Moth Eaten. If anything can be done with them 'tis well if not it matters nothing.<sup>27</sup>

[First letter from Camp Smiths Clove, to Col. Abeel, dated June 27, 1779]

Sir,

I arrived here yesterday Evening . . .

... You may just do as you please in regard to the matter so as the Cloathing does but remain clear of Damages, or don't become Moth-eaten of which I hope you will take the necessary precautions.

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<sup>27</sup> This was the last letter Weiss sent from Middle Brook.





[To Col. Udney Hay, dated Camp Smiths Clove, July 1, 1779]

. . . Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox was here during my absence and left an Order for me to draw two hundred P<sup>r</sup>. Blankets out of the Clothing Store at Morris Town — Should be glad to know if you have been applying for any latterly as I am no ways particularly in want of them and can't learn at Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greens Quarters who or for what purpose they are intended at this Season of the Year —

[Weiss informed Col. Mitchell on July 7, as to the blanket order — "Gen<sup>l</sup>. Green nor any here could inform me concerning the matter."]

Camp Smiths Clove July 12<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

[ . . . ] to write you in regard to two matters — first is that if Colonel Hooper should quit the Department at Easton, to fix me there if possible, And second<sup>ly</sup>. it would in my opinion be much better to have a Magazine erected for Q.M.Gen<sup>ls</sup>. Stores at such a place as Easton for the present Expeditions should there be a likelihood of carrying on the War another Campaign.

As I have my young Family<sup>28</sup> seated in that Neighbourhood must therefore request Col<sup>o</sup>. Cox's favours, should any thing of the kind turn up, that he thinks would be to mine and the publicks advantage. Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper mayn't probably quit the Service, and should that not be the case, I would by no means desire it while he continues — all that cause me to think he may is that he happened to say in my hearing he should only serve during this Campaign, but would not chuse it hinted to have come from me for the Friendship between us — I have now served the publick going on three years, and should esteem myself very happy if it was so that I could be of service and at the same time nearer home, as M<sup>rs</sup>. Weiss is but of a tender weakly Constitution, and when I left her last was in a very poor State of Health.

I once had a short Conversation with the General in the Spring — about having a Magazine erected at Easton, and to let me remain there and supply the Army from time to time, as might be requisite; he seemed to think it would be hurting of Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel, and if it really appeared requisite and a suitable place why Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper might not as well have the direction in that way, and seemed rather desirous that I should remain with the Army —

<sup>28</sup> Weiss was twenty-eight years of age at the time, the father of four young children: Francis, born March 6, 1773; Rebecca, born April 9, 1774; Jacob, born August 18, 1775; and Thomas, born August 29, 1776. All were born in Philadelphia.



and [all ?] this I agree too, while things continue in their present situation, but should there be a change at Easton towards the close of the Congress, beg to be remembered on the Subject. The erecting of a Magazine which I am now proposing might be the means of having the Stores in a very respectable way throughout the Departments carried on with Ease Pleasure & satisfaction to both the QMG<sup>l</sup>. his Assistants and those at the different Posts, in the first place as I observed before the Army might be supplied by it from time to Time with just such Stores as were really necessary. And Secondly, it would always be an Asylum in case of particular Emergencies to supply any part of our Army, as it now stands divided, which seems likely to be continued both Westward and this way.

First of all — when there is a Superintendent properly appointed on the foregoing Plan it ought to be in his power to know the State of Stores throughout the Army and Departments to be well acquainted in a measure about the constant demands to support the same, and secondly to keep a constant Store of suitable supplies, which ought to Centre either at the Magazine or other adjacent places, as the Business of the publick may require, by this means we should always be enabled to support our Cause, with greater Ease & satisfaction than heretofore —.

The Returns for all Stores received and delivered ought to come under his direction and suitable persons out of the different Departments ought to be appointed to receive and deliver Stores in his behalf — so that one general return of the whole proceedings in that way might be obtained at any time from the Superintendent when acquired by either the QMG<sup>l</sup>. or &c. and would shew the true State of Affairs and save the QMG<sup>l</sup>. calling so often on the different Deputies for Returns which must be attended with infinite Trouble both to you and him.

The Magazine would be a Check on all Contractors, and if I rightly understand you certainly want something done in that way — The Plan proposed with Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel I suppose was intended on this manner — but I have always observed that either the General or yourself had to see after these affairs and as your Business runs so very extensive, can't but think it must be of great Incumbrance to each of you, which might have been remedied had the matters first been properly set on foot by Colonel Abeel agreeable to his Appointment for my part I have had much Trouble & perplexity in regard to the Stores, by calling for Returns and getting the Army provided with necessaries which I was obliged to gather from different places — Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel knowing nothing of our Situation, and nevertheless still bearing the name of a Superintendent Gen<sup>l</sup>. of Camp Equipage — pray, does he know how the Supplies of the Army stand? has he ever made it his Business to gather Brigade Returns throughout the Army? has he ever







wrote me that I must look to him for a general supply? or has he *even* been able to furnish me with such?, since the Commencement of the present QMGenl.? is there any Connection between him any of the Deputies or myself in regard to Stores, for my part I know not how to take him — & should conclude that if he had his limits properly pointed out, and was appointed to the Care & Examination of Tents, Tent making &c. with what Contracting Business he may be in, would be as much as he might cleverly go through, but to have too great a relyance on him for all these matters, and to have a glut of Stores Centring on him, some directed for one person and some for another, and he knowing nothing of our wants, makes me conclude Business will ever remain perplexed where it is carried on in that manner, and must certainly cause Confusion in accounts, when there comes to be a Settlement made, by their going thro' so many Hands, Col<sup>o</sup>. Coxe as Contractor for Camp Equipage, might order as he thinks proper, but a superintendent should be appointed who knew and would study the wants of the Army, and ought to represent the situation of the same as often as possible to the QM<sup>r</sup>. Genl. or yourself, by this means you would then know, thro' the state of his Stores, how to proceed in the Contracting way, — when the best supplies are likely to be got, and what Men serve the Publick best, Order the matter once to be set on foot, & see if it wont save infinite Trouble & expense, Should Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel be esteemed a more suitable person than myself in regard to the foregoing Observations, I have nothing to say to the Contrary and am well satisfied in what way you may please to Continue me during my Services. All that I have to add, is that he appears to me not so agreeable, and conclude that I should not be one of the happiest under him — Excuse my Freedom & believe these intentions are sincerely to serve both the Department & the publick

From your Obed<sup>t</sup>. Humbl<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW. D.Q.MG<sup>l</sup>.

(A lengthy postscript follows referring to Clothing, etc.)

Col<sup>o</sup>. John Coxe  
A. Q. MG<sup>l</sup>.

[From Camp Smiths Clove, July 10, 1779, to Col. Hay at Fish Kill, he wrote:]

... I have herewith sent M<sup>r</sup>. Betts order for Payment being £ 1600 Pennsylvania Currency — which please to enclose P. Bearer Peter Huber ...



[July 15 he informed Col. Hay at Fish Kill:]

Yours with the Cash came safe to Hand P. Huber Waggoner, and have enclosed you a Receipt for the Amount, all right, which am much obliged to you for.

[Writing from New Windsor, August 25, 1779, to Gustavus Reisbergh, Weiss noted, "I arrived yesterday at this place." To pursue the business of his department Weiss travelled extensively on horseback. "... Mr. Weiss set out for Phil<sup>a</sup>. last Week at which time he also wrote for Horse Shoes to you, ..." was inserted by Christopher Meng in a letter from the above location, dated July 29, about four weeks earlier, written to Colonel Abeel.]

Camp New Windsor Sept<sup>r</sup>. 14<sup>th</sup>. 1779

[To Col. James Abeel]

... The Tents ... are much wanted, and would have at least Three Hundred sent on as quick as possible — Should that Number not be at MorrisTown state the Case to Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell, & request him to send them on without delay with any Num<sup>r</sup>. of Markees or Horsemans Tents that he may have on Hand ...

Any Horse Shoes that you may happen to send, let them be of a larger kind than latterly sent ... As our Horses in general take very large Shoes ...

[To Col. Mitchell, dated Camp New Windsor, Sept. 14, 1779]

Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene wants some of the best Writing or Letter paper you possible can send him ...

[To Colonel Hay, dated New Windsor, Sept. 15, 1779]

I am vext about the Jar of Raisins not coming and have wrote Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell about their not being sent — I have since thought that in all probability they are come among the Stores sent you, which you will know when you come to open them.

Camp New Windsor Sept<sup>r</sup>. 27, 1779

Sir,

Inclosed you have a memorandum of the number of Shirts drawn for the use of your Company. I have also included in said Memorandum the Number of Shirts Shoes & Stockings that were delivered you or on your Order for Captain Lamb and Osbornes Companies, and want you to inform me what Proportion each





Company had, of those Articles, that they may be charged properly. There was none of the Cloathing for these Companies return'd in your Account, which on perusal you will find to be so. I have enclosed you likewise Copy of a Return taken from yours of the 28<sup>th</sup>. October last, and want you to enter each Mans Cloathing delivered by you for the Year 1778, and send me as soon as possible with your Return for the Year 1779 and a like Return with what number of Men you have supplied already for this Year to be done in the manner of the One enclosed . . .

Yours,  
With Respect  
JW. D.Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>.

Capt<sup>n</sup>. J: Bruen

[To Col. Baldwin, dated Camp New Windsor, Sept. 27, 1779]

. . . We keep our Clothing Book separate from those of the other Stores issued. Should be glad you would please to desire that all Orders for Cloathing be made out separately from any other Returns or Orders sent to the Store.

[To Col. Mitchell, dated Camp New Windsor, October 8, 1779]

The Blankets & Hats are exceedingly wanted as I observed to you in my last, and am fearful the men will not be able to Continue in the Service if they have not Covering. Shall therefore be glad to hear from you as quick as possible, and how you may be likely to Succeed, perhaps you may be able to procure as many Blankets from the Board of War as Mr. Kemper received from me Vizt. Sixty Eight Pair as mentioned in my last to you . . .

Camp New Windsor October 10<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Sir,

I enclose you Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchells Letter, and would have you Observe what he says in regard to Blankets. I since wrote him in Answer to the same, requesting that they might be got if possible as the Men would Actually Suffer for want of them, tis probable he may have a Chance of procuring them and expect to hear from him in a few Days.

Col<sup>o</sup>. Thompson W<sup>m</sup>Gen<sup>l</sup>. tells me there is a considerable Quantity of coarse Blue Woollens at the Clothing Store here, and judged it would be best to procure some of it—if possible for the Men in Case Blankets cannot be procured shortly. The General perhaps will be able to determine upon something on the Occasion and should be glad for his Instructions.



As Chief of the Artificers and Teamsters are furnished with Cloathing and having Two Hundred and Thirteen Pr. Mens Leather Breeches just come on from Col<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell, should like to know upon what Conditions they may be Issued. Some of the Artificers have not drawn their Complement of Breeches and would now of choice rather draw the Leather kind, and as a part of them have been furnished in the Cloth way, and are also desirous of Drawing Leather Breeches — should be glad that the General would Resolve upon some Plan for Issuing them and let me know.

As the Season approaches towards Winter Quarters [at Morris Town] I should like to know how the Gen<sup>l</sup>. determines for the Stores and materials necessary for Hutting in case it should come to that Business this Fall and if it would not be proper to write Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel for a Return of the Articles necessary and to know the Situation & Order they are in — When the Books I left with the General are perused — I should be glad to receive them by some safe Hand — & remain

With greatest Respect

The Gen<sup>ls</sup>. most Obed<sup>t</sup>. Servant

J.W: DQMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Maj. Gen<sup>l</sup>. Greene  
Q.M.General

[To Gen. Greene, dated Camp New Windsor, Oct. 19, 1779]

. . . I am of Opinion it would not be amiss if the General was to have a Return made Out from each Brigade of the Articles now in Occupation, with the Remarks agreeable to the enclosed form, it would shew how they are exactly situated, and might be done against the first of next Month or sooner as may be thought best, and if agreed upon, I will be at pains of Writing the Quarter Masters and Col<sup>o</sup>. Hay. It may cause some Satisfaction and as Gen<sup>l</sup>. Sullivans Division is so near at Hand, a Return might be procured of Col<sup>o</sup>. Sheriff at the same time whereby we should be able to know how we stand in the Camp way — before the Tents in particular begin to be burnt, smoaked &c. & other Articles lost by the Time we got into Winter Quarters.





Camp New Windsor Oct<sup>r</sup>. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1779

Dr. Sir,

The Q.M.Gen<sup>l</sup>. is particularly desirous of knowing the Situation of Our Stores and Camp Equipage in the Army, by the first of November, now near at Hand, and has for that purpose requested my framing a General Plan for the Brigade Quarters Masters to govern themselves by. You will therefore please to fill up the enclosed for your Brigade and see that the Return for General Muhlenbergs is also Completed and sent me as quick as possible —

I remain, With Respect  
Yours &c

J:W: DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

N.B. Let your Return be  
signed & dated at the bottom  
as Customary & sent in to me

Capt<sup>t</sup>. Henry Young

[To Colonel Cornelius Sheriff, dated Camp New Windsor,  
Oct. 26, 1779]

I Congratulate you on your safe Return from the Western World, and with Successes your brave General [Colonel Brodhead's expedition against the Senecas and Muncys up the Allegheny Valley with 600 men is undoubtedly referred to here] and his small Army has had through that Country against the Savages.

November 2<sup>d</sup>. 1779

Copy of a Certificate sent Gustavus Reisberg Esq<sup>r</sup>.

This Certifies That Eighteen Casks Tanners Oyl, were at the Valley Forge Mill, when I took direction of the Q.M.G<sup>ls</sup>. Stores, which was in May 1778. And that one Pack of the above Number said to Contain Thirty Six Gallons was delivered one M<sup>r</sup>. Bartholomew for publick use by an Order from the Q.M. Generals Office and was Recepted for to M<sup>r</sup>. Christopher Lodwick, who had the Case of said Oyl — That also seventeen Casks or Barrells making the Remainder of the said Eighteen were delivered by me to Col<sup>o</sup>. Cornelius Sheriff D.Q.M.General in June Following a few Days after our March from that place, Quantity whereof — was unknown.

Jacob Weiss  
DQMG<sup>l</sup>.

Gustavus Reisberg Esq<sup>r</sup>.  
D.C.Gen<sup>l</sup>. of Issues



[While in Winter Quarters Weiss's letter-writing evidently slowed down considerably. Between November 4, 1779, when he was still at New Windsor, and February 28, 1780, from Morristown none appear in the letter book, although on that latter date he referred to a letter he wrote Colonel Mitchell on the 13th of February. The men while in Winter Quarters turned to letter-writing and created a demand for paper, as noted in his letter to Mitchell.]

. . . Paper we are entirely Out of, and Request that a supply may be immediately sent. The Call for that Commodity is likely to be very great in a few Days in the Army.

The Harness Leather and a Number of the Orderly Books, sent out lately prove to be very bad, and in all probability, shall have to Return them or a part — pray Order the Books made of a better Quality hereafter —.

Morris Town March 6<sup>th</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I wrote you the 28<sup>th</sup>. ult. for sundries by Post — and as Mr. Meng waits on you with this Letter, and knows what kind of other Stores are and may be wanting for the Army have to request, that whatever he may find necessary exclusive of such already wrote for, may be also forwarded — The Common Mens Shoes, latterly sent Out, I omitted writing to you about in my last. I have about Three Hundred Pair on Hand but such miserable Truck that the Men will scarce draw them. The Soals are made of Green Leather & such as are obliged to wear them, have their feet constantly wet, and consequently their Lives are thereby Endangered. The Sewing of the Shoes are so very Wretched, that they Rip in the course of three or four Days wear — I therefore wish you to Order them of better Work and Quality in future — These Remarks are by Complaints made to me, and am under the disagreeable Necessity of stating the Case to you. Please to let One Hundred Pair good stout Shoes be sent out by first Stores coming, as I shall no doubt have to Return you part of those now on Hand. There has no Stores arrived yet since I left the City. I judge the badness of the Weather together with the Roads & crossing the Delaware have been the Occasion — The Article of Paper I shall be much plagued for, as we are very bare and wish you to send on a supply. In the mean while, I remain with much Respect

Yours &c

Jacob Weiss  
DQMG

Col<sup>o</sup>. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Mitchell





[To Colonel John Mitchell, dated Morris Town March 19, 1780]

. . . I could wish you to send out twelve or fifteen p<sup>ces</sup>. of Yard Wide Irish Linnens, such as formerly sold from three to 4 Shillings p<sup>r</sup>. Yard, as they are actually wanted, very much, and is General Greens particular request that the Officers be supplied. I omitted in my last Letter to request your sending out, One Hundred Felt Hats for the Artificers & Hatters . . . Those French Cloths that came by way of Sussex are such Miserable Truck that its scarce worth making up, & the Officers complain heavily against it.

You will also please to send 60 Doz: of Coat and Vest Buttons suitable for Officers, whose Regimentals are Blue & Red and of Course they ought to be yellow Buttons . . .

I would remark that when you are getting Cloathing made up, for publick Service, that instead of Breeches let Overalls be substituted, which I find are Ordered by a certain Resolve of Congress passed in March last — and appear to be of most Service to the Men and whatever Clothing may be made hereafter, please to Order the Work well done and the Buttons in particular be well sewed, which is a Complaint the Men have against their Cloathing, and alledge it to the Rascality of your Taylors.

[There are no letters entered between March 19, 1780 and September 7, 1780. Weiss reserved seventeen blank pages at this point and may have intended to copy correspondence at a later time. It is quite likely he wrote few letters during this period. The major campaigns of the war had moved to the south with the surrender of Charleston in May, the Battle of Camden in August, and the Battle of King's Mountain in October. Also by this time he had made his formal suggestion for transfer from the continental or federal service to the Pennsylvania State service at Easton, for which transfer he thanked Colonel Miles, as noted in the following letter. The spring and summer months of 1780 may have been a period of de-served quiet for him.]

Camp near Hackensack Sept<sup>r</sup>. 7, 1780

Sir,

Your favour of the 25 ultimo only came to hand this day. I wish you could have known of my being at Camp, so as to have directed to me here, immediately from Philad<sup>a</sup>. —

I return you thanks for your friendship in offering me the Post at Easton, and shall accept of the appointment for North-



ampton County, in the State way — I have General Greens permission to retire in consequence of your letter and shall leave Camp next day after tomorrow for Easton, and go by way of Morris Town.

I am very Respectfully  
Sir

Your Most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Jacob Weiss

Colonel Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles DQM

Easton 13<sup>th</sup>. Sept. 1780 <sup>29</sup>

Sir,

I wrote you the 7 inst. by express from Camp in answer to yours of the 25 ult<sup>o</sup>. and rec<sup>d</sup>. yours likewise of the 2 of Sept<sup>r</sup>. with a Copy of your 1<sup>st</sup>. Letter inclosed, and warrant empowering me to act for this County, which I have accepted and hope my letter came to hand — I arrived here yesterday and have been making myself acquainted in some measure with the matters relative to this department, as soon as I have Receip<sup>d</sup>. for the Stores shall transmit you a Return of the same. I now enclose you Copy of a Return Certifyed to General Greene just about the time of his Resignation, by which you will partly see the number of Stores, with the Buildings &c then remaining in the district under the care of Col. Hooper.

Should you think proper I wold also hold an oppointm<sup>t</sup>. for Bucks provided an additional pay could be allowed having once acted for part of that County under Gen<sup>l</sup>. Mifflin in his time — I wish to have your Instructions as early as possible in regard to the pay, and hire of such person that may be found necessary for the department. and expect you will furnish me with money to Conduct the Business Properly —

Should any considerable quantity of Stores Center at this post, it would be necessary to have a small Guard Stationed here if possible, perhaps a Sergeants Guard of Invalids from Colonel Nicholas's choar might be obtained for that purpose if required hereafter. —

I am with Much Respect  
Sir Your Very Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Jacob Weiss —

Colonel Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles DQM

<sup>29</sup> The first of 92 letters datelined "Easton." Fourteen months earlier from Camp Smiths Clove he had expressed his desire for transfer to Easton.





Easton [ ]<sup>th</sup>. Sept<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

You will receive herewith by Jacob Yale Waggon Cond<sup>r</sup>. one Brigade consisting of

12 Waggon with covers compleat

48 Waggon horses with Gears compleat

96 Baggs

for which you will please to send me a Receipt — these horses are part of those you sent on here which Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler<sup>30</sup> received and receipted to you for, you will please to return all the Baggs to 24 as they are much wanted for the teams transporting grain from this post. the waggoners are to return

Yours in Hast[e]

Jacob Weiss ADQM<sup>31</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. James Abeel DQMG.

Easton 2 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I have herewith sent you by Jacob Yale WCond<sup>r</sup>. nineteen public horses which you will please to have recruited in good pasture if possible. Mr. Yale may assist you in getting the waggon collected so as to have the horses off our hands as early as possible. I should be glad to know what success you have had towards getting them repaired — I understand waggon are much wanted at Camp, so that you will expedite the Business and am with Respect

Sir your Most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Colonel Kreider

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<sup>30</sup> This is the earliest mention of Colonel David Deshler in these letters. Note the references to his services in the subsequent letters. For an excellent biographical account, see "Colonel David Deshler, Allentown's First Citizen," by Helen Wittman Kohl and John Young Kohl, Lehigh County Historical Society, *Proceedings*, XV, 1946.

<sup>31</sup> This is the first signature as Assistant Deputy Quartermaster.



Easton 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1780

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup>. yours of this day and am sorry it is not in your power to undertake the Business proposed. You will please to pay attention to those horses now under your care, which I sent in consequence of your promising to serve and until I can provide otherwise -- I am going immediately to see them Billited over the Saucon -- I shall see M<sup>r</sup>. Gray respect<sup>s</sup>. the teams, and shall send you word again, if there is no doing with out them. -- I was at Bethlehem yesterday, but you was gone before I could arrive -- I return you thanks for your friendship, and you will hear from me immedi<sup>t</sup> on my return from the horses. --

I am Sir your Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J Weiss ADQM

Colon<sup>l</sup>. Conrad Kreider WMG.

Easton 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1780

Sir,

In consequence of your Offers of friendship I have to request you will use your utmost exertions in getting the waggons now at M<sup>r</sup>. Lerchs put in repair so as to have them fitted up immediately for Camp. You will also receive from Colonel Deshler all the Continental horses<sup>32</sup> he may have on hand and have them billited out where there may be good pasturage found -- I will also see those persons paid to whom you may Certify accounts on this occasion, with the first money that comes to hand.

I am very respectfully

Sir your Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Philip Boehm

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<sup>32</sup> The attention paid to the care of horses as expressed in many of the letters which follow is readily understood when one recalls that all during the war there was never an adequate supply of them. Note John Marshall's statement: "The want of engineers, artillery, and cavalry, constituted an additional defect in the structure of the army, which was seriously felt. During the campaign of 1775 and 1776, there existed but one regiment of artillery, no corps of engineers, and not a single troop of horse. Among the militia of Connecticut there were indeed a few cavalry; but the expense attending the maintenance of their horses prevented their being employed in the first instance; and, when they were taken into service, it was soon perceived that without better horses than could be furnished by militia men, the duties required from them could not be performed." (Marshall, *op cit.*, III, 55, 1805 edition.)





Easton 5<sup>th</sup> October 1780

Sir,

I have Certified that you have rendered me a return of Issues in the Forage way, with receipts from the 4<sup>th</sup> of Sept<sup>r</sup>. last, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Oct<sup>r</sup>. this month; which with a Return of Forage rece<sup>d</sup>. at this post, and also sent you; and by your issues up to the 4<sup>th</sup>. of Sept<sup>r</sup>. will shew the total amount to correspond with your purchases — you will issue, nor take no receipts for Forage issued but in my name hereafter, and that only; for the Contin<sup>l</sup>. Teams on their way from Reading &c to this place. Officers Traveling, cannot draw but at the destined posts, such as Reading and those places pointed out by the Commander in Chief — I have signified to M<sup>r</sup>. Jennings how the receipts must be taken, and should you find an absolute necessity for furnishing Forage at any time to expedite public Business, you will see to have the receipts lodged with me by the close of every week, that they may be entered in my Return of Issues — this mode will save expence in hiring a person to see the business done, which I think unnecessary at present — I am much in want of a Supply of hay, and beg you will furnish me with several loads as early as possible. I shall see to get the horses off your hands by tomorrow or next day — I have been disappointed by Col<sup>o</sup>. Kreider he has declined taking the horses in charge.

I am with Respect

Sir Your Most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Colonel Deshler C of Purch<sup>a</sup>.

Easton 6 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

In consequence of your letter of the 4 ins<sup>t</sup>. I went over to Saucon, and shall have the horses Billited among the Farmers, and the waggons repaired — I have just returned and rec<sup>d</sup>. yours of the 6 ins<sup>t</sup>. am much obliged to you for the trouble you have been at — and as it dont suit you to take charge of the horses — I have agreed with M<sup>r</sup>. John Lerch to take them off your hands — any expences that might have attended — shall see paid, and remain with much Respect

Sir your Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Kreider WMG



Easton 6<sup>th</sup> October 1780

Sir,

If Colonel Boehm should not arrive at Allentown in the Morning, you will please to have all the Continen<sup>l</sup>. horses sent to him — I am sorry it has not been in my power to get them off your hands before this time. Col<sup>o</sup>. Kreider whom I expected would have taken charge of them sent me word that he could not undertake the Business in consequence of which I was obliged to make interest with Col<sup>o</sup>. Boehm, to see them Billited among the Farmers, in Upper Saucon — I also expect to have all the Waggons repaired by the latter end of next week

I am Sir Your  
Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler C.P.

Easton 7 October 1780

Sir,

I am desired to request you will make your best exertions to get all the waggons repaired as quick as possible — to have all the wheels taken from M<sup>r</sup>. Lerchs to your house — the horses also from Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshlers — There is two waggoners sent from this to take some of the Broken down waggons, to the Smiths you first spoke to.

I am Sir Your Hum Ser  
for Jacob Weiss ADQM

Nat. Wright

Col<sup>o</sup>. Philip Boehm

Easton 14 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

His excellency Governor Read [Joseph Reed] on his tower thr'o this County, thought proper to order the British Prisoners of War under the care of Doct<sup>r</sup>. Ledlie at this place, to be collected and sent off to Reading — I was also directed to Receive and forward them to you, for which purpose I have inclosed you a Return of their Names and Number sent under the care of Sergeant Lewis Knouse, who has his instructions to deliver them to you, and by whom you will please to send a Receipt when delivered. — Inclosed I have sent you copies of two notes of hand given (Viz) M<sup>r</sup>. I. L. Youngbergh & M<sup>r</sup>. Maring,) by Leut<sup>t</sup>. Frederick Burghoff one of





the German prisoners that was Billited at Nazareth in the Spring of 79 (each note payable in three weeks) and as these Gentlemen are both friends of mine, and have been very much disappointed by Mr. Burghoffs non performance — have to request your influence in procuring the money if possible, — or see to make Stoppages for such amount, before an exchange may take place for said officers — in doing of which you will likewise oblige

Sir Your Most Ob<sup>t</sup>.

Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Henry Haller  
D.C.P.

Easton 18 Oct. 1780

Sir,

I now send you Alex<sup>r</sup>. Allen a prisoner of war that was taken at Stony point with his wife and two Children, on the 16 day of July 1779. he tells me he is of Col<sup>l</sup>. Campbells 71 Regiment of highlanders; and promise[s] upon the honour of a Soldier, to deliver him self up to you. there was 13 Prisoners sent you under the care of Sergeant Knouse (Viz, (including John Champbell as one) who just came in as the Guard was going off — his Regiment you know and when taken.

I am with Respect

Sir your Most Ob. Ser<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>l</sup>. Henry Haller DCP.

Easton 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1780

Sir,

Yours of the 5 inst. I only rec<sup>d</sup>. on Friday — the horses in this County are near 70 on hand, 20 of which I rec<sup>d</sup>. from Jersey about the 1<sup>st</sup>. of this month — I expect to have the waggons repaired so as to send of a Brigade this week with Flour for the army when this Brigade is gone. I will inform you of the situation of those horses Remaining — I have inclosed you an Estimate of Supplies that was fixed by the Magistrates of this County on thirsdy. last, and which they are to procure by the 20 of next month — I made it my Business to meet them on this occasion —



Col<sup>l</sup>. Deshler I believe has not furnished 100 Barrells Flour since his appointment, & the business in the purchasing way goes on very Slowly — we have no Flour or Provision on hand but what this Brigade will be able to carry off. — There has been near 300 Barrells of flour sent from this post, since the 1<sup>st</sup>. of Aug<sup>t</sup>., part of which had been sent here from Lancaster and York Town — several Brigades with Flour &c have gone through this place that was directed for Morris Town, of which I make no account — I have had one load of Flour left here, sent over from Col<sup>l</sup>. West ADQM Gen<sup>l</sup>. late Colonel Hoopers department from Greenwich (New Jersey) and take it to be a part of Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Leverin, Mills & Companys purchasing of Philadelphia. — I conclude that by such plan adopted with the Magistrates as P inclosed Estimate — there would be more supplies, if there was money to pay the people.

The Waggon Master of this County has been with me concerning the pay of a Number of Teams that was called out to haul Provisions, several weeks before my commencement Should be glad to know if they are to receive pay from me, and when it will be in your power to supply me with money. Unless Forage and Rations can be supplied the teamsters from Reading to last them as far as this place, I shall be under the necessity of fixing a Person at Allen Town for the purpose of Issuing Forage — which I would rather avoid if Possible — I have no conveniency for weighing Hay at this post, and judge it would be of infinite service to the public to have a machine erected, so as to weigh the Hay when it comes in, if you approve of it I will see to have one erected and am with much

Respect Sir Your Most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>l</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles DQM

Easton 20 Oct. 1780

Sir,

This serves to inform you that I hold an appointment as Quarter Master for this County — Mr. Dunn waited on me yesterday, with an Order directed to Col<sup>l</sup>. Deshler, for four Continental horses — Colonel Deshler acts only as a Commissary of Purchases, and our branches of Business are quite separate from each other — all horses Camp Equipage, Forage, teams and Quarter Master Stores in General are to be drawn from me, so that in future, you will k[n]ow how to direct in those matters. — Mr. Dunn has drawn, four Public horses, four Pack Saddles, two Blind Bridles, two Rope halters & two Bells with Straps, for which he has Receipted,





and have charged them to you — you will please to send me your order for the delivery of the horses &c, by a Suitable Opportunity any time hence — Should be glad to hear the news Stirring your way when its convenient —

Your &c.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>l</sup>. Henry Greiger

Easton 20<sup>th</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

Should you find it necessary to furnish the teams coming out from Reading, or from that course with Forage, you will please to let the Receipt<sup>s</sup>. be taken agreeable to the Instructions now sent in my name — unless they are taken in this manner specifying for what use, where going, for what number of horses and number of days — I cant pretend in future to settle for any vouchers of your Issues — nor will Colonel Miles or Col<sup>o</sup>. Morgan undertake to do it, nor even accept such Returns in my opinion, particular such as are delivered. I am astonished to think that Mr. Deshler your son in law has not paid more attention to the department in making it his endeavours to have the Business conducted properly — Let the Receipts be taken on 1/3 part of a Sheet of paper so that they appear decent, and at the close of every week I will receipt to you for the total amount of your Issues. I have delivered you already the Resolve for furnishing Forage which you will pay regard to and am

Sir your Very Hum<sup>e</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

David Deshler Esq<sup>r</sup>. C.P.

Easton 24 Oct. 1780

Sir,

I have sent under the care of Jacob Yale WCond. twelve public teams with tackling Pr. Invoice enclos'd, made up of the worn down horses that were sent here in the month of Sept<sup>r</sup> for recruiting, the waggons I also send had fitted up, being some of those



that were on hand when Col<sup>o</sup>. Hooper quit the depart<sup>t</sup>.<sup>33</sup> There are about 20 horses still remaining in this County some of which I purpose selling next week by order of Col<sup>o</sup>. Miles, as they will be of little service to the army this Campaign

I am with much Rest. Your

Col<sup>o</sup>. T. Pickering QMG

J. Weiss ADQM

Easton 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1780

Sir,

I have enclos'd you a Return by which you will see the Stores drawn from Anthony Lerch, John Lerch & Lawrence Good — the above part of said Return will shew the tackling necessary for Twelve four horse teams — some articles you rec<sup>d</sup>. over run the complement necessary to compleat such a Brigade — and some are short which I suppose you have supplied M<sup>r</sup>. Yale with. It will be necessary therefore for you to add the articles you so furnished necessary for equipping said Brigade, which will shew how matter stands, and enable me to settle in the returns now making out for the Q.MGen<sup>s</sup>. department. I have inclosed you a Certificate likewise for the forage Receipt that young M<sup>r</sup>. Deshler deliv<sup>d</sup>. me in your absence. I gave him a Certificate but find it dont corespond after reading over the Receipt<sup>s</sup>. here with M<sup>r</sup>. Wright which you will find by comparing the inclosed List of Forage with the original. I was looking over the Receipts for the horses you Rec<sup>d</sup>. & Issued and cant make them corespond, in the first place, was the 76 horses sent Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel all of Colonel Kreiders Purchase, and were the 108 horses sent by Col<sup>o</sup>. Abeel to you, all Rec<sup>d</sup>. or what part did you Receive. Inclose me a list of what Contin<sup>l</sup>. Stores you may have on hand, and what you have delivered Col<sup>o</sup>. Boehm — at whose house I should be glad to see you on thursday to settle those affairs

I am with Respect

Sir your very  
Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>

Col<sup>o</sup>. David Deshler  
CP.

JW  
ADQM

<sup>33</sup> Two years earlier, Congress had inquired whether ox teams might not replace horse teams for hauling supplies. Aware of the shortage of horses for the service, as well as their expense, Congress on September 12, 1778, passed a resolution: "That the quarter master general be directed to consult with the Commander in Chief, whether a reduction of the stationary teams cannot be made consistently with the good of the service, or whether ox teams cannot, in the present seat of war, be substituted in a great measure for horse-teams: and if General Washington shall be of opinion that both or either of these measures are advisable, that the quarter master general take measures for carrying the same into execution, in such manner as shall be deemed most consistent with the good of the army, and a regard to public OEconomy."





Easton 1 November 1780

Sir,

The Quarter Master General will probably send in the course of a few days a considerable Number of public horses to be wintered in this County. The State Quarter Master Colonel Samuel Miles has also requested me to make myself acquainted in time, with what Number may be conveniently taken in by the Farmers for wintering, and to inform him as early as possible to this purpose as several of the Magistrates are now here assembled. I thout it advisable to consult you on this occasion — and to request that you will make influence with such of the Gentlemen that may be present to assist me on this occasion — and to inform those that may be absent of the necessity there is in having their help likewise on this important occasion. If the Magistrates can but inform me of what number of horses may be proportioned to their several districts, it will be of Infinite service to the public, and save much unnecessary expence in employing persons to go through the County Billiting those horses on the people unawares

I am Sir your most Ob. St.

J. Weiss ADQM

Thomas Syllamon Esq.

Easton 3 Nov. 1780

Sir,

I have a number of public horses sent me from Camp, and was ordered to have such as appear young and worth wintering to be sent in to the Country for that purpose, and as now near 50 or 60 on hand for sale, have concluded to send you the best among the drove, which you may examine, and if worth wintering, you will please to have it done. It will be best for such as you may think proper to put out, to have them sent further back in the Country, as we may expect a considerable number to be sent us shortly from the army, and which was the Reason of my sending you these to make room for those to come — should you think proper to send the horses beyond Reading, you will please to let these men Return, and employ fresh hands for that purpose, and pay such Reasonable expence as Mr. John Waggoner may Certify to the people on this occasion in your district.

I am Respectfully

Sir your very Humb. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. ADQM

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Miles ADQM



Allen Township 11<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1780

Sir,

I have just rec<sup>d</sup>. yours by express with 5 letters enclosed which I shall see to have conveyed to the persons to whom directed by first opportunity as you request. I have been this day engaged in the sale of the worn down public horses sent to this County and have about 16 still on hand, would only make mention that I purpose holding another vendue on the 25 inst. to get rid of those Remaining & not worth wintering, and if the QMGen<sup>l</sup>. has any in Camp he would wish to have disposed off it would be well to have them sent in time for that purpose, and should be glad you would inform me immediately hereupon —

Yours,

J. Weiss ADQM

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Platt DQM

Easton 13 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I enclos'd you a Copy of His Excellency the presidents orders respecting Mr. Oliphants drawing Rations and Forage, it appears that he has been dismissed some time ago, by Mr. Henry under whom he had acted, you will please to furnish me with a Return of what Forage he has drawn that I may have that, with the Rations collected and sent to Mr. Henry agreeable to His Excellencys Order — You will also Issue no Forage untill you may receive further instructions —

I am Sir your Most

Ob<sup>t</sup>. Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler C.P.





Philad<sup>a</sup>. 9 Nov. 1780

Sir,

Mr. Henry<sup>34</sup> of Lancaster informs me that Mr. Oliphant who had the care of the shoe factory has been discharged some time ago — of course his Rations Forage &c ought to have ceased. You will therefore stop them & furnish Mr. Henry with the account of what he has drawn this 6 Months past, that he may be charged therewith —

I am Sir Your  
Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
Jos. Reed Presid<sup>t</sup>.

David Deshler Esq. C.P.

Easton 13 Nov. 1780

Sir,

It appears by the inclos'd Copy of his Excellency president Reeds letter that you are not to draw Rations or Forage. Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler is also to furnish me with a Return of what Forage you have so drawn, and should you have no new instructions authorizing you to act in the Hide department, it would be as well for you to deliver up such public Stores as you may have in care.

I am Sir Your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
J. Weiss ADQM

Mr. Oliphant

Easton 14 Nov. 1780

Sir,

Inclosed you have 4 Letters exclusive of mine, you will please to forward the one to Col<sup>o</sup>. Miles and the others for Mr. Morstallar by first safe opportunity — I would advise your getting a Couple of waggons fitted up suitable to haul 7 or 800 Staves at a time from Col<sup>o</sup>. Kreider, or the Mountains, there are a Number of wheels at Colonel Boehms, and by having large Bodys put to them, they may do twice the Service. Col<sup>o</sup>. Boehm will let you have the Wheels, and likewise have the waggons fitted up, on your applying to him. I wish to see a supply of Hay brought to this place as soon as possible and am

Sir Your Very Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.  
J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler CP.

<sup>34</sup> William Henry was issued a warrant on the treasurer for \$80,000, "advanced upon the application of the Board of War and Ordnance, for the payment of leather, accoutrements and shoes for the army, and the repairing of arms . . ." This payment was ordered by Congress at its session on February 19, 1779, and the above mention of Mr. Henry in November, 1780, indicates the extent of his business in the war effort.



Easton 16 Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I inclose you a Copy of letter from M<sup>r</sup>. Blair Comm<sup>r</sup>. at Morris-town, and should be glad you would inform me what flour you have on hand, and what number of Teams are wanted to transport the same from Allentown to Morris Town, and if teams are wanting on your part, you will please to apply to Colonel Kreider immediately to Supply you, that the Flour may be got on before the Roads are bad, if you should think it necessary, I would write M<sup>r</sup>. Blair, to have the teams returning from Morris Town to fetch empty Barrells —

I am Sir your Hum. Ser<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>l</sup>. David Deshler

Easton 17 Nov. 1780

Sir,

I enclose you a Return of the Stores said to be rec<sup>d</sup>. by you from Anth<sup>y</sup>. Lerch, John Lerch & Lawrence Good. I have also Returned the Stores that M<sup>r</sup>. Yale has drawn for the use of the Brigade that went from Allentown for Camp — You will please to examine the Returns and set down the Stores you furnished to make up the compliment of M<sup>r</sup>. Yales Brigade which will shew how the account stands, and what Stores there are still remaining in your hands — agreeable to the returns you must have the following Stores on hand Vz.

[nineteen items are listed, mostly harness and wagon items, and particularly "14 Bruch Bands" which item suggests Pennsylvania German influence in the word "Bruch"]

All these matters you will please to have properly Stated in the return . . .

[The addressee was omitted, but the letter was undoubtedly to Deshler]





Easton 2 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1781 [1780]<sup>35</sup>

This Certifies that Colonel David Deshler Com<sup>y</sup>. of Purch<sup>s</sup>. for Northampton County has this day delivered a Return of Forage Issued at Allentown with Receipts from N<sup>o</sup>. 1 to 44 containing one hundred ninety nine and a half Bushels Chopt Rye, Seventy three and a half Bushels Chopt Buck wheat Forty nine & 3/4 Bushels Oats, five Bushels Cut Straw, two hundred and fifty eight Bundles Straw and Five tons seven hundred three Quarters and Four pounds of Hay being Issued from the 1<sup>st</sup>. day of Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1780 to the 1<sup>st</sup>. of Dec<sup>r</sup>. both days included.

J. Weiss ADQM

Easton 5th Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I herewith send you Forty public horses such as appear young and worth wintering. I could wish you to put them out for that purpose, to be kept on Hay with direction to those persons in whose care they may be, that they dont at first overfeed them for they are exceedingly reduced, and of course particular attention must be given, so that they recover by degrees, or otherwise they are soon worstett. The magistrates in Such of the townships wherein you may think most proper to billit them, will aid, and assist you on this occasion, if necessary by your application to them; I suppose you will be able to keep the greatest part at your own Stable, and in case you should find it dificult procuring Hay, you may if need requires it, only apply to Colonel Deshler Commissary of purchases, who is hereby requested to furnish you, anything otherwise wanting I beg you will see to have done, and you will in the course of a few [days] report to me the number that appear worth wintering — I will see all reasonable accounts answered and remain for the present.

Sir your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

[John Lerch, Allen Township]

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<sup>35</sup> This is the second time Weiss errs in the dateline. On page 177 of the letter-book he entered the date of President Reed's order as 1781. There are other evidences of haste in entering the letters. His penmanship and his spelling are not as meticulous nor uniform as in his earlier entries, although there is still beauty and legibility in the penmanship.



Easton 5 Decr. 1780

Sir,

You are to proceed with Forty public horses and deliver them unto Mr. John Lerch in Allen township, you will be very carefull not to drive them fast, and as you will hardly be able to arrive at Mr. Lerch tonight, you must see to procure Hay and stabling for them, for which those persons who may furnish you shall be paid and I will see the accounts answered, when you are about to feed them it must be with hay only and that given them very sparingly at a time or they will be all knock'd up

Jacob Weiss ADQM

Mr. Lewis Knouse

[Letters similar in content to the preceding follow, dated December 5, 1780. The first is directed to Paul Reisor who is to proceed with public horses to Colonel Philip Boehm in Lower Saucon. The second letter is to Colonel Boehm informing him of the horses being sent to his care.]

. . . I hope you will see to have them all stabled immediately, untill they recover somewhat. I hope you have been carefull to send advertisements on the different Roads respecting the sale of horses tomorrow — I shall be at your [Boehm's] house this evening, or early in the morning, to attend the sale at Mr. Groses.

[In a letter to Jacob Murry, Esq., dated Easton, Dec. 8, 1780, he states that he has sent sixteen horses to be wintered among farmers and that he is]

. . . under the necessity of dispatching them from this place immediately for want of Forage.

Easton 8th Dec. 1780

Sir,

I have herewith sent you Twenty public horses, all young and such as the Quarter Master General wishes to have wintered. I shall esteem it as a very particular if you would please to have them Billited in your district, upon the best terms you possibly can, so that they may be rendered serviceable in the spring. I should be glad if I could have come to you upon the occasion, but





time just now will not permit me, however I shall endeavour to see you the latter end of next week, and beg that in the meantime, you will please to use your utmost endeavours in having them put out in such places where they will be taken best care off — and I will see the people righted in regard to payment I should be glad to know if there might be more horses billited in Upper Millford without making too great a stress upon the Farmers.

Fred<sup>r</sup>. Leinback Esq.

J.W. DQM

Easton 9 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

Mr. Turner DWMaster with a number of Public horses on his way to Lancaster County, will want about three Tons of Good hay for their use, the horses will be at allentown this night or in its Vicinity, it will be necessary that you inform the bearer hereof how far the horses may come, so as to be furnished with the above quantity of hay, for which purpose he waits on you before hand, that the hay may be got in readiness and which I beg you may supply without fail as the horses were scant last night.

Yours

Col<sup>o</sup>. David Deshler

J. Weiss ADQM

[The next letter, which we have omitted, instructs Theophilus Foulke to accept twenty eight horses, which he sent under care of Lewis Knouse.]

Easton 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1780

Sir,

There are about one hundred horses now on their way towards Reading of Major Coldclugh to be wintered and it will be necessary that you send some person if possible with the bearer who waits on you with this to see the horses furnished with provender or to give him such Instructions where to procure it when they get on to Bucks County. The Quarter Master General is of opinion that Maxatany, and Oley, will be the sutablest Counties to have them billited at among the Farmers and Major Coldclugh purposes halting at Mr. Lavuns in Maxatany to receive your Orders respecting their being billited in and about that neighbourhood. If you



have appointed any person this side Reading to assist on such like occasions I should be glad to know that I may in future be able to direct accordingly — and am with much Respect

Sir your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Rich<sup>d</sup>. Miles esq. ADQM

Easton 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1780

Sir,

I have to request you will employ three or four Boats upon the most reasonable terms you possibly can to transport wood by water from Mr. Henerys Plantation or landing, any persons you may likewise engage on this occasion shall be paid by me. I rely on your getting them on the best conditions for the public your own expences shall also be paid by

Sir your Very Hum. Ser.

J. Weiss ADQM

Mr. John Herring

Easton 23<sup>d</sup> Dec. 1780

Sir,

I rec'd yours respecting the Buildings in Northampton and refer you to the Return of the number that I enclosed you some-time ago. I am of opinion that they will be all wanted yet a while excepting the one at Colonel Kreiders, which I believe he means to Settle with Colonel Hooper for. I would not recommend the selling of any of the rest untill we see how the times alter. I find they can all be made use of, those at allentown are occupied by Colonel Deshler. There has been a considerable number of public horses arriv'd at this place within these three weeks past, very much reduced, some are sent on to Berks, some to Maxatany, some to Oley, some to Lancaster County, and a part remains with me. The chief of those that have been left with me were exceedingly reduced, and a considerable number very old, there was about 20 died in the course of 4 or 5 days after they had arriv'd at this place, and several more died out on the Farms, where they happened to be billited, though the best attendance were given, but believe it to be owing to their hard keeping at Camp, and on their way here. I thought it advisable to sell off all such as appeared very old & reduced & that I concluded could not stand the winter, which was likewise Col<sup>o</sup>. Pickering's direction to me. I have had





six sales at different places, copies of which I will transmit you some time next week. I have forwarded all the Flour to about 25 Barrels left at this post, and the Forage as it comes in, out of the Country — the movement of supplies from Lancaster, Reading and York Town, are very slow, and am sorry to find it so, the Chief of what has been sent to Morris and Pitts Town has gone from this County, and shall be under the necessity of drawing money to pay the acc<sup>ts</sup>. for waggon hire, and in the course of a week or ten days, and should be glad to know when I may send or call for about £ 1000 which suppose will help me to make head way with the Northampton people.

I am with much Respect  
Sir Your Very Hum. Ser<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles DQM

Easton 23 Dec. 1780

Sir,

I was fully bent on coming to see you this day, but I find I must leave it till the middle of next week, I have had so many people on my hands, since you was here that I find it impossible to get away yesterday, it being Court time, and today the Prisoners are about going off; so that you will have patience with me, and do, and order the best you can for the horses on the public acc<sup>t</sup>., and I will see you righted; I sett up last night writing all my circumstances to Colonel Miles DQM for this State, and make no doubt but I shall meet with good encouragement from him for my labour on this occasion respecting the horses.

I am with much Respect  
Sir your Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Mr. John Lerch

Easton 4<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

General Knox wrote me some time ago to have all the Military Stores and Artillery at this place under the care of Mr. Pervin Cond. of Military Stores — removed to Philadelphia and I concluded it would be most proper to have them transported by water, to save the expence of land carriage, and as we have had no swell in



the River till lately, and the weather appearing favourable, have engaged three Boats to take the Stores down, and must beg when they arrive at Philad<sup>a</sup>. that you will please to advance Mr. White Thirty pounds State money, or other money equivalent taking his Receipt on my Account. I beg it as a very particular favour that you will see Mr. White in so much money, before he leaves Town, or I may never pretend to employ them again, unless they meet with so much success from your hands, or paid by Colonel Flowers's department, which you will please to see too — you will please to order them Rations and half a pint of rum each P. day, which I am informed is the customary allowance P day when found — on which terms I have engaged them and am very respectfully

Sir your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles DQM

Easton 4 Jan<sup>r</sup>. 1781

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

Yours of the 29<sup>th</sup>. ultimo came to hand this day, and I am now transporting the military stores that were under the care of Mr. Pervin at this place to Philad<sup>a</sup>.; by water, which is at the request of General Knox. The want of Cash to pay for transporting, prevents my getting the Iron to Philad<sup>a</sup>. — which you request me to forward, and unless Colonel Miles can advance Mr. White who has charge of these boats the money I request him, which is but £ 30 State or other money to that amount equivalent. I know not how to engage them again, can you see this money advanced in Such case, if it should not be done by Colonel Miles. I shall take it very kind, for which purpose Mr. White will wait on you with this, and it will be a means of encouraging him hereafter to continue the Boats for transporting the Iron you mention, and likewise the pig Iron lying at Philipsburgh opposite to this place, of which there is a considerable quantity, and it would be well to have it away by the Spring — Any service I can add shall be cheerfully done and am with Much Respect

Sir Your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. ADQM

Maj<sup>r</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Hodgdon DCMS





Easton 9 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

To Whom it may concern

The bearer Christopher Hevener having faithfully as a public team driver from the 8<sup>th</sup>. of Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1780 to this present time and being discharged is permitted to pass to Reading Berks County unmolested and to deliver up the horse he has in Charge to the Q Master when he here arrives he has drawn 3 days Ration at this place.

J.W. ADQM

Easton 15 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

Colonel Miles the Deputy Quarter Master for this State wrote me on the 8 inst. which letter only came to hand two days ago — It appears that I have been transgressing in some measure on your limits by putting Continental horses out to winter under the care of Mr. Foulk. I dont deny that fact but can assure you it was done inadvertently and with no view to give offence, since my arrival from the army to this post, I have been considerably put to my trumps and latterly in particular with respect to the Continental horses; and as the Quarter Master Gen<sup>l</sup>. had directed all the horses to my care, and knowing there was no Quarter Master in Bucks, I concluded that as Colonel Hooper formerly had the direction of that County in the Quarter Masters way — it was my Business to have some of the horses billited there, and should been very happy to have wrote you on the subject first, if the least thought had come in mind, that it concerned you or was a part of your business and if any of these horses now out under the care of Mr. Foulk can be provided for by you in the Forage way, I should take it very kind if you would please to take it upon you to receive them, and see the amounts for Forage answered that Mr. Foulk may Certify and know to be just. I have wrote to Squire Leinback in Upper Millford who promised he would assist me about the billiting of some of the horses in his neighbourhood, and if it should appear too stressing upon the Farmers in your County to have them continued, I have given direction to Col<sup>o</sup>. Boehm to have them taken away to Mr. Leinbacks. There was a number of reduced horses I had on hand and was advised to have them sold at the house late Trumpowers tavern, and accordingly held a vendue there on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Inst<sup>t</sup>. which was perhaps also bevond my Jurisdiction, I must only request you will overlook it & believe it was not done intentionally to interfere in your department. I wish a better acquaintance and should be glad to hear from you.

I have the Honor to be with much

Respect Sir Your —

William McCalla

J.W. ADQM



[To Mr. Foulk, dated Easton January 15, 1781, concerning the misunderstanding with McCalla] —

. . . I look upon it that I was in the line of my duty by placing the horses in your neighbourhood, without thinking that I was inroaching on the Contractor Mr. McCalla to whom I should have been glad to have applied too, If I could have known of his doing anything in the Bfliting way . . .

[On the same date as above Weiss wrote a very long letter (about two and a half pages in the letterbook) to Colonel Samuel Miles, in part as follows:]

I rec<sup>d</sup>. yours by return of Mr. White on Saturday, and shall credit you for the £25 besides three pounds not receipt<sup>d</sup>. which he says to have rec<sup>d</sup>. and is a part of the Masachusetts money Mr. Wright got changed at your office. I had a part of that money given me in payment for the horses sold at public sale and took it at 75 for one,<sup>36</sup> but if it dont pass at that rate in Philad<sup>a</sup>. I must then see to return it, which you'l please to inform me . . . I should have been pleased to have known of Mr. McCalla being friendly in our way, for actually wanted some such persons assist-

<sup>36</sup> "Writing probably in 1780, Franklin declared that during the first year of the war the Continental bills of credit passed current at par in the United States. However, on November 23, 1775, the Continental Congress took official cognizance of complaints that 'sundry persons' in Philadelphia were refusing 'to receive in payment or give a currency to' the bills of the state of Pennsylvania, and of the Continental Congress." (Quoted from R. V. Harlow, "Aspects of Revolutionary Finance," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. XXXV, No. 1, October, 1929) Attempts were made during the years 1778, 1779, and the first part of 1780, at fixing prices by statute, but the Congress recognized the futility of checking depreciation and resolved to admit bankruptcy. On March 18, 1780, Congress hoped to retire the outstanding bills at the ratio of forty to one, but within less than a year officially rated the bills at seventy-five to one.

John Marshall in his five-volume *Life of George Washington*, noted: "Notwithstanding the large emissions which were unavoidably made, and the absolute want of any other fund than the public faith to support their credit, no difference between paper money and specie was generally perceived, until the campaign of 1776 had far advanced.

"Early in 1777, the real depreciations became considerable: but it was still mistaken by many for a rise in the price of every article brought to market, and by others it was thought practicable to check it by the application of violent remedies.

"In a resolution for the purpose of keeping up the value of the bills of credit issued by congress, and of safeguarding against the pernicious artifices of the enemies of American liberty to impair their credit, it was declared that whoever, in any purchase, sale, or barter, whatever, shall rate gold or silver coin higher than the continental bills of credit, ought to be deemed an enemy to the liberties of the United States, and to forfeit the value of the money or other thing, in the purchase, sale, or barter of which this difference of value was made; and it was recommended to the several states to pass laws to this effect." (Vol. III, 1805 edition, p. 58.)





ance respecting the horses. I never saw Beasts in such a miserable condition, and such number very old! that I judged it was much best, to put them out of public charges, as soon as possible; for which purpose I sold all such as I knew would not answer in the Spring. You may perhaps think the number sold too great; but believe me greatest part must have died if they had been put out on public account, what with the scarcity of Forage among the Farmers, the disappoint<sup>t</sup>. of the former accounts not being paid them, and no money now in hand to encourage them in any manner, causes the Business to be carried on very reluctantly. I dont suppose the horses would sold near so high, had they been setup for Continental Money, my sales were in Specie on the exchange! which run them up to what they amount too. I laboured under much more difficulty than the Quarter Masters beyond me, for all such horses as could not be got on to Reading, fell on my hands, — I dare not knock them in the head, and yet greatest part were not worth public Forage. There was one parcel out of which I selected 30 horses or upwards, that were young, they were so reduced, that when they lay down, the men were obliged to lift them up, these I had sent to a part called linn Township in Northampton, where they are stabled and I have employed men to feed them regularly, and ordered the Forage procured for them, to be paid by Colonel Deshler. This move maynt appear so reasonable, as if they had been billited among the Farmers, which if I had done at first, the one half of them must inevitably have died, when they recover strength, and you object to the mode of drawing upon Colonel Deshler, I must see to have them placed among the farmers . . . As this is a frontier County, it dont answer to have many of the horses over and about the mountains, and all the Forage that can be spared from Sauccon (which is our chief Hay Country) is generally wanted for this Post, so that I must shift by ways and means to support the teams as they come thro this place . . .

Easton 24 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

I have to request that you will please to furnish two Brigades — not less than Twenty teams immediately to transport Flour from this place to Sussex Court house — much wanted for our army on the North River, who are upon half allowance, by information from Colonel Morgan the State Contractor — I beg there may be no delay in procuring the Teams that the number mentioned may be made up, and that they likewise find their Forage. The teams are to go no further than Sussex Court house — which I mention



that the teamsters maynt be concerned about being taken further — they will want 6 days Forage to take them from this place at least.

I am Sir your  
Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Colonel Kreider WMGen<sup>t</sup>  
for Northampton County

Easton 24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

This will be handed you by Mr. Lerch whom I have requested to wait on you respecting the billiting of horses. The counties of Berks and Lancaster are so full that I had lik'd to have got a part return'd me, however they luckily got them all billited among the Farmers, and as I dare not send them any more, and am still in expectation of about 50 being sent me from Camp and Morris Town in a day or two, I must actually request your aid in making Interest with the Farmers to take a proportion as soon as this letter reaches you. I hope you will do your best on this occasion as the horses will all be wanted in the spring, and request you will give directions that they be put in good order, that the army may not be disappointed — you will please to inform the Farmers, that this Rule or Maxim of Billiting horses is General and that they must absolutely take a part, for which they will be paid, when the horses are to be taken away. I wish you to consult with the Magistrates in the townships adjoining in Northampton County, that an equal number may be taken by them, on the same conditions your own Trouble and expence shall also be answered — and in expectation of your exertions and friendship on this important occasion remain with respect

Sir your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Matthias Probtz Esq.  
[Captain, Lynn Company, May 22, 1775]

Easton 24<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup>. yours with the receipt for the horses which I should answered before but throug hurry of Business had omitted it. I am in expectation of 50 horses to come from the Penn<sup>a</sup>. line in a day or two — the DWMaster is on his way to Morris Town and





tells me they must actually come upon this county, and that I was near having a parcel sent back from Reading and Lancaster, by which it appears every part of those Counties are full. I therefore have to request you will endeavour to make out among the Farmers in the township your way to have a Suitable number billited, the only way to come at which, will be to apply to the Magistrates and get them to point out the places where they can be comfortably wintered, for which purpose I have wrote Mr. Probtz, whom I expect will aid and assist you in this matter. All the horses in Lancaster and Berks County are out among the farmers, which Mr. Bartley the DWMaster tells me he presently got billited, by telling the Farmers that if they did not take such as they could billit with ease he would put a double proportion on them, so that he immediately got them all put out, you must therefore take recourse to the same method, pray set about this business as quick as possible by first waiting on the Magistrates, getting them to allot the number for each township, and that the farmers put the horses in good care, so as to have them in readiness by spring for the army—I am with Respect

Sir your Most Oblt.

Hum. Servt.

J.W. ADQM

Mr. John Lerch

Easton 1<sup>st</sup> Feby. 1781

Sir,

I have to request you will issue no Forage at allentown unless very particular Circumstances require it—I inclose you that part of the late Resolve which expressly forbids Forage and Rations being issued at any post, but where Troops are Stationed nor can you even draw public Forage for your own Teams any longer.—The Intention of Congress is that the teams imployed in the State find their own Forage and receive the additional pay—so that you will furnish them your self in future—I cant with any propriety render the Returns of Forage to the Deputy Quarter Master contrary to the Instructions or plan laid down by Congress, and I know you would not wish me censured—If the voluntary teams wont engage to haul upon Conditions of finding themselves—Colonel Kreider must then order out such number of teams from time to time as the public Business may require—I hope you wont discontinue your own teams in consequence of the Resolves but try to do good every way—I have the pleasure to be with respect

Sir your Very Hum Servt.

JW. ADQM

Colonel David Deshler



[To Aaron Forman, Easton, February 1, 1781]

. . . You will herewith receive 113 Bushels Chopt Rye and 31 Bushels Chopt Buckwheat in 32 Barrels, which last when empty, you will please to return me, as I have no bags and am short of Barrels . . .

Easton 14<sup>th</sup> Febr. 1781

Sir,

By a letter I rec<sup>d</sup>. from Mr. Anderson Quarter Master at Sussex Court house, it appears that his Excellency General Washington is very anxious for having all the Flour and Forage forwarded on as quick as possible to the army — and as the Roads I am told are very excellent for hauling from this place to Sussex Court house, could wish you to urge Mr. Kerns Brigade to come on as quick as possible, particularly if they have got their loading from the Mills, near or towards Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshlers. Waggon teams or 4 & 2 horse Sleads will answer as well. I saw Mr. Roath the WCond<sup>r</sup>. yesterday he promised to procure some sleds or teams likewise to make another trip, and if you should send me ten or a dozen more I should be very Glad

I am Sir your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W. ADQM

Colonel Kreider WMG

Easton 16<sup>th</sup>. Febr. 1781

Sir,

Since I wrote you last respecting the three Brigades I find I shall want at least 20 four horse teams exclusive to carry of the Flour and Forage from this post only. The teams of Mr. Kerns and those mentioned from Macungy if ordered, I take for granted will receive their loading either at allentown or at the Mills in that neighbourhood, agreeable to Colonel Deshlers opinion; so that I could wish and have earnestly to request you will order out the above number to be here at any rate by Monday if possible, it being his Excellencys request that all the supplies be immediately forwarded, as tis suspected there is a movement in agitation, perhaps against New York, tis said the French Troops are moving down, which I have by a letter rec<sup>d</sup>. from the Quarter Master at Sussex, who writes in the most pressing manner to have every exertion made that the Flower [sic] may go on Mr. Treisbach goes as express with this. I suppose there might be more teams got out of Mr. Roths district that havent been out this Fall or winter —





the nearer teams can be procured the better — I should be glad the matter might be done without Restraint — could there not be teams got out of Sauccon likewise. Pray use every means in your power to have the Farmers persuaded to turn out as the Flour &c keeps coming in from Reading daily, and I shall have too great a Magazine on hand, unless I keep removing it, I should be glad to know if the two Brigades viz Kerns & Maccungy were ordered — a part of Roths are here now loading — only seven so that the teaming goes on poorly

I am Yours &

JW ADQM

Colonel Kreider WMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Easton 16<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1781

Sir,

Mr. Anderson Commisary at this post was pleased to hand me your letter of the 13 inst. with Copy of Mr. Nesbits. The Flour has been forwarded on as fast as it could cleverly come on & with what can now be collected,<sup>37</sup> and has just came in from Reading he tells me will make up about 180 Barrels, for which Teams, and Sleds, have been ordered out, and expect to have them by to-morrow, at the different places, so as to carry supplies on to you, as fast as possible. You may inform Mr. Nesbit that nothing has nor shall be wanting in me to have the same transported — Mr. Leinback at the Moravian Mills informs me that you have sent for the Flour left at that place, which I am glad to understand and am,

Sir your very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J Weiss ADQM

Mr. Edw<sup>d</sup>. Dunlap

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<sup>37</sup> Earlier during the war, Washington had to take drastic measures to prevent flour from reaching the British army. "It was perceived that the mills in the neighbourhood of Germantown were perpetually employed in manufacturing flour for the British army, which the favourable dispositions of the people enabled them to receive in spite of every exertion which could be used to prevent it. To put an end to this source of supply, general Washington was under the necessity of ordering the mills to be rendered unfit for use; . . ." (Marshall, *op. cit.*, III, 341.



Easton 16<sup>th</sup> Febr. 1781

Sir,

You will please to let a team come down immediately if possible with all the public Stores at allentown, that are not in public use, and actually wanted at that place, as the Troops are coming in and I want them to be accomodated with fire places, in the Court house, and other vacant houses. I have herewith wrote Mr. Levers to send down the 10 plate stove he has on hand, with all the pipe, which if he can readily do, you will please to let it come under one by the team you send. I am exceeding poorly of for stove pipe, pray send all you can gather, that is public property. Let the waggoner call on Mr. Okely for 12 sheets of Iron, and send those at your house, that we got of the tavern keeper — you will please to have a supply of Candles made as quick as possible for the troops —

Yours &c

J.W. ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler

Easton 1<sup>st</sup> March 1781

Sir,

Your letter of the 9 Febr. came to hand two days ago and have inclosed you a list of the horses in this County public property, with a Return of the persons employ'd by me. You'll perceive I have no enlisted waggoners, and as for private Teams or horses I have none upon public Forage — nor shall allow any so to be wintered. I am now about seting off for Philad<sup>a</sup>. with my accounts and vouchers to procure money if possible — to pay team hire &c, and will make it my business on my way to Philad<sup>a</sup>., to know what situation the horses are in that course — About the 1<sup>st</sup>. of Jan<sup>y</sup>. I went to see them, and they were likely to do well. I have already sold 200 horses since their arrival in these parts, that would have been a very great loss to the public if I had wintered them or any part — Time wont permit me at present, or I would inclose you a Copy of my sales, which I am now about to take to Philad<sup>a</sup>. but I suppose Col<sup>o</sup>. Miles will transmit you them, as soon as I return, will write you again, and remain with much Respect

Sir your Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW. ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. Tim<sup>y</sup>. Pickering QMG





List of Public horses in the district of Northampton County and in whose care viz,

Philip Bochms Lower Saucon....	10	} Under the inspection of Philip Boehm
Francis Hartmans .....	8	
Jacob Huber .....	10	
John Lerch Allen township.....	18	} Inspection John Lerch
John Swartz Lin township.....	24	
Samuel Drake Hamilton township	31	
Theophilus Foulk .....	21	
In public teams .....	10	
John Dunn QM .....	4	frontiers & 7 Months men
At Easton .....	4	
Sundry Farmers .....	4	
Total		150 — [144 correct total]

Easton 21<sup>st</sup> March 1781

Sir,

The Quarter Master General expects that all the public horses now wintering will be fit for Service by the time the Campaign opens, for which purpose I could wish to know the situation of those under your care — should there be any that you might judge not suitable for the Service, let me know the number, that I may dispose of them. I have inclosed you an order for one hundred Bushels Chopt Rye on Col<sup>o</sup>. Chambers for the use of the horses that are not furnished with short feed, and should you find it difficult procuring Forage apply to Colonel Chambers, for which you will receipt and the quantity so receipted for may go as a part of the Quota to be delivered by Col<sup>o</sup>. Deshler pray use your best endeavours that the horses be put in good care as early as possible, as I expect part of them will be called for ere long, and should there be any disturbance by the savages you will please to have the horses taken to places of safety.

I am with much Respect

Sir Your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J Weiss ADQM

Captain Drake

Easton 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1781

Sir,

The bearer John Horn will deliver you a Box contain<sup>g</sup>. wafers which you will please to forward to Colonel Pickering Quarter Master Gen<sup>l</sup>. at Camp by first opportunity, as the wafers are very much wanted in the army. The Forage I wrote you being at Colonel Chamberses up the dalaware is now taken down to M<sup>r</sup>.



Lyon Jones in the neighbourhood of Major Hoopers, and could wish you to order teams for it as soon as possible, as he has a quantity of Chopt Rye to send there immediately after the Corn is taken from thence — the difficulty I suppose will be in getting Bags. There is one thing highly necessary and which will come under your immediate Notice — the getting a place built opposite this place for the reception of supplies, so when the teams come on, it may be taken down under one and put across by Boats to save the teams crossing so often, and which expence, in a little while would be paid only through saving unnecessary ferriage — pray move the matter as I am about to make up a public Brigade which might be Stationed on the opposite Side, and be kept going readily to Sussex, the time often lost by teams being detained at the ferry and the paying so much ferriage together you must be sensible in a short time pay the cost of such a Building which will appear necessary for the reception of Stores I have the pleasure to be

Sir Your Very Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JWeiss ADQM

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Anderson Esq. ADQM

Easton 28 March 1781

Sir,

The hemp and Rod Iron you will please to forward to Colonel Hughes Deputy Quarter Master at Fish Kill as quick as possible which is at the request of Colonel Pickering Quarter Master General it being very much wanted as appears by his letter to me, — I cant prevail upon the waggoners to go further than Sussex, so that you will procure teams to proceed with it to Colonel Hughes. These are Farmers teams and will cart Flour another trip, provided they are not obliged to go on from Sussex with their loads — and as I have it not in my power to pay them at present, am under the necessity of keeping upon good terms with them, that the Supplies may be got on —

I am with Respect

Sir Your Hum Serv.

JWeiss ADQM

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Anderson Esq. ADQM





Easton 29 March 1781

Sir,

The bearer Mr. Waggoner has purchased a Store here of Mr. Michael Hart and as the Buildings are of great service to the public and he is about to remove it shortly — I could wish after you hear his proposals to know if it would suit you to replace as much timber provided he lets the Building remain to go in lieu of the public Building on your Farm with the consent of the Quarter Master General to whom I will write as soon as I hear your mind on the occasion. This building of Mr. Waggoners will be of essential service to the public, and if its taken away, I shall be much at loss for another like it, unless put to the trouble of Building one —

I am with much Respect

Sir your Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J Weiss ADQM

Colonel Conrad Kreider WMGen<sup>l</sup>.

Easton 18<sup>th</sup> April 1781

Sir,

I would advise you to stop Choping rye unless I can learn what quantity may be wanting, for if we should have any quantity on hand when the weather comes to be warm it will all spoil. Perhaps you have particular Instructions respecting the Quota of Forage to be delivered, what makes me caution you about the Choping rye is in consequence of a letter I rec<sup>d</sup>. from Morris town mentioning what they had there was like to spoil — should be glad to know what Quantity you have on hand in all at the different Mills— and I think it would be best to stop Choping for a while. Pray send me down the timber belonging to the Forage Store. In the course of a week I expect a number of public horses, which I purpose making up in a Brigade to forward the Supplies from this to Sussex & am greatly in want of a Supply of Hay and straw for the purpose of supporting them and the horses that may be coming on to join the army shortly. Mr. Funston can get hay and Straw but wants money for the purpose —

I am Sir,

Your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JWeiss ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. David Deshler



Easton 10 May 1781

Sir,

I this day rec<sup>d</sup>. the inclosed from Mr. McCalla — I sent sundry teams to be loaded with Flour and Forage as the river here was not possible, which you'll please to load and send down — I am exceedingly distres'd for want of Hay and Straw at this post, pray send me a supply, that the teams carting from this post may be regularly supported. I am in daily expectation that Col<sup>o</sup>. Miles be here from Philadelphia — I have a letter from him and may expect him, so that you will please to send me Hay, by all means if possible, or I shall be ashamed to see him here. The officers are much dissatisfied in not getting their allowance, and it puts me to great *trouble* not having it in my power to satisfy them as I ought, which is owing to your not providing me. I rec<sup>d</sup>. a letter from Mr. Anderson ADQM at Sussex Court house in which he requests to know the quantity of Forage I may have on hand, and likewise the quantity I may be likely to forward in a short time, be so good as to inform me as near as you can of the quantity on hand immediately, that I may inform him, as the Forage Master General at Camp chiefly depends from this quarter, and wishes to have all the Forage sent on. I wait your answer hereupon — and remain with much Respect —

Sir Your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JWeiss ADQM

Colonel David Deshler

Easton 11<sup>th</sup> May 1781

Sir,

I rec<sup>d</sup>. yours of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. in regard to the pay for the horses sold, you will please to procure me the Specie or State money or the value in exchange now going — had the money been paid at the time the horses were sold, it would have answered at 75 for one — you know that in our way we often give notes for balance due when not in Cash to pay the whole, these notes of which I have given you a Number, when come to be paid, instead of 75, must be paid at double the sum, and for me now to receive money at Seventy five and pay it away at 175 will never make my aud<sup>t</sup>. to answer — So that I could wish the rather to receive State Money, or if it is in Continental money at the present exchange. I hardly think that Mr. Hinckle or the other Gentlemen, mean to take the





advantage of me in that respect, after waiting so long — My sales were for Specie or the exchange, which Mr. McCalla will please to adhere to and will greatly oblige his friend and very

Hum. Serv.

JW. ADQM

William McCalla Esq.

[To Col. Samuel Miles, dated Easton May 16, 1781, Weiss briefly wrote of the making of camp kettles, and adds:]

. . . Our money has got to such a pitch that the people are very easy whether they work for it or not.

[To Aaron Forman, Assistant Deputy Quarter Master, dated Easton, May 16, 1781, Weiss wrote:]

Sir,

I have sent you four Barrels of Forage with a quantity of Camp Kettle Iron as P Jacob Moyers Receipt inclosed, the sheet Iron you will please to have work'd up into Camp Kettles — Colonel Miles Dep<sup>y</sup>. QMaster for the State of Penn<sup>a</sup>. informs me that the Kettles are immediately wanted, and make no doubt but you have Instructions to the like purpose . . .

[The first record of the return of horses from wintering is found in a letter by Weiss to Ephraim Colver, dated Easton, May 31, 1781:]

. . . I shall send about 25 horses through the Hope, to go to the North River, and have ordered one Barrel Chopt Rye to be left at your Farm, for the purpose of feeding them, and should be glad you could furnish them with Cut Straw, which we can have settled any time when we meet — These horses are for immediate use, and could wish them to arrive at Camp so as to be suitable for service . . .

[A larger number of horses were requested by Colonel Pickering, according to a letter dated June 1, which Weiss wrote to Thomas Anderson, ADQM.]

. . . He has . . . wrote for one hundred horses to come from Reading and Lancaster Counties for Camp and may expect them in a few days. It would be well to appoint some place between this and Sussex where they may halt and have forage furnished them. I have ordered one Brle of Chopt Rye to be left by William Morris with Mr. Ephraim Colver at the Moravian Mills to be fed some horses I purpose sending from here on Sunday . . .



Easton June 2<sup>d</sup>. 1781

Sir,

I inclose you a Copy of Mr. Chukleys letter in behalf of Colonel Miles DQM. that you may be prepared to furnish the Troops with Supplies on their arrival in this County, if you have not as yet tis probable you will receive instructions to the like purpose from Colonel Morgan. In the meanwhile I could wish that every preparation relating to your department might be done so as to get the Troops on as fast as possible through our district, by the time they reach Reading we shall be informed in what order they march, which will enable us to regulate our matters accordingly. I have this day received a letter from Mr. Anderson QM. at Sussex Court House in which he requests that all the supplies for the army might be forwarded on as quick as possible You'll please to send on all the Forage and Flour that you may have on hand to this post and likewise furnish the different Mills with Barrels to pack their flour and forage that you may have in this County on public Account.

It would be well if you could come down to this place when we could talk more at large on the subject and am

Sir with much Respect

Your Very Humb<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss

N.B. Consult Squire Levers in regard to the accomodations that may be necessary in your Neighbourhood and let me know the result.

Colonel David Deshler

Easton June 5, 1781

Sir,

I wrote you 16 Ultimo in Answer to yours of the 7th which I suppose came to hand, and have since received yours of the 18th & 28th with Mr. Chukleys also of the 25th, respecting the Convention Troops, and shall make the necessary preparations for their Arrival as requested. I shall transmit you my Returns for last quarter in a few days — I have also sent on this day to Colonel Pickering 32 public horses in good order, . . . and likewise yesterday sent him a load Horse Shoes consisting of 1113 pr. with Nails —





I hope you will be able to furnish me with Cash shortly to defray the Public Expence already contracted, and that may attend the March of the Troops thro' this County.

I am with much respect  
Sir Your Very Humble Servt.

Colonel Samuel Miles  
DQMaster

J. Weiss

[An interesting reference to the problem of paying farmers for the care of the horses during the preceding winter is found in a letter, dated Easton June 9, 1781, to Captain Samuel Drake.]

. . . Should the people with whom the horses were billed be backward in delivering them, you may assure them from me, that they shall have justice done them, as the QMGen<sup>l</sup>. dont mean to keep them out of their pay any time, but as soon as I can hear from Col<sup>o</sup>. Miles DQMG<sup>l</sup>. how I may settle their acco<sup>ts</sup>. whether thro' the State Contractor, or pay them myself, shall come up and do it as quick as I can obtain the Cash. I suppose many of the people would be glad to have the horses off their hands if you find it so in Gen<sup>l</sup>. & could get a hand or two to assist in driving those down that are fit for service, I should be glad, and it will be a means of getting rid of them . . .

[The problem of payment for wintering horses received, among other matters, attention in a letter to Colonel Miles written June 15, 1781:]

. . . in regard to the horses that have been wintered should be glad to know if the Calculation you proposed when in Philadelphia to be made and drawn in favour of those persons, that have wintered horses on Colonel Deshler, will answer as a Settlement still; or do you purpose a particular sum to be allowed P Month for their Keeping. Should you be so lucky as to have it in your power to furnish me with a sum of money by Mr. Gray, pray let me know how you would have the accounts for team hire settled, viz. for those teams that have entered Voluntarily, and if to be paid by the trip, Mile or P day . . .

[To Colonel Timothy Pickering, dated Easton June 27, 1781:]

. . . I here send under the care of Simon Link thirty five public Horses which I concluded would be wanted in the Army as Mr. Boyd WCond<sup>r</sup>. had not got his compliment out of Berks



and Lancaster Counties, and as the Farmers with whom these horses had been billited were Weary of keeping them any longer — Captain Kemper in search of Oyl came on as far as this place, he was only lucky enough to procure two Barrels in Jersey. I went with him as far as Bethlehem in which Neighbourhood we have procured the quantity requested and shall require the Cash as soon as possible for paying for it — Captain Kemper will give you the amount as soon as he arrives and an order particular on Colonel Miles if it dont suit to send the Cash may perhaps be Answered and serve many good purposes hereafter.

I forwarded 116 Camp Kettles to Mr. Furman by a Team with Axes, Faschines, Hatchets, and Tomehocks, as P memorandum inclosed — please to order Forage and Rations for the three with those Horses to carry them as far back as Sussex Court House . . .

[To Thomas Anderson, dated Easton June 27, 1781, in part:]

. . . I yesterday sent on [to Newburgh] two Teams [under Adam Treisback] with Quarter Master Stores for the Army. They were furnished with six days Rations & Forage . . . There aynt above 40 Barrels of Flour at this post at present, & the forage chiefly shorts & Bran, tho' I expect a Considerable quantity of Chopt rye in very shortly . . .

Easton 28 June 1781

Sir,

The last credit made in my Books is as P. last entry in the Return herewith inclos'd you of the 31 Jan<sup>y</sup>. I have enclos'd you the original Return, with such of the vouchers as are furnished on State Service. Mr. Shackleton will Remember that Mr. Wright gave him a Certificate for the whole amount of the Return, — such part as I could with propriety enter in my Returns, I did, and have to request you will compare this with the entries made in your Books and send me a Copy of the same as Charged. I also enclose you the Return of the 26 of April with the vouchers, and think you had better make out a return of all Forage furnished for Continental use, since that entered of the 31 of Jan<sup>y</sup>. last, so that I may Receipt to you for the whole amount. The receipts given the millers by Mr. John Lerch will be sufficient vouchers to pass with the Returns, and the Forage that might have been purchas'd by him, or any others in Charge of public horses may be receipted for by them, mentioning for what use and those Receipts delivered me with the rest will be sufficient vouchers for me to Certify upon, that you have furnished such part towards the Quota to be delivered the Receipts should be made to core-





spond with the time of payment, or their account of purchases delivered you. Pray send me the Sheet Iron at Mr. Crombocks as soon as possible with some of the weights you have in the mill much wanted here

I am Your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

JW ADQM

Col<sup>o</sup>. D. Deshler

Easton 29<sup>th</sup> June 1781

Sir,

. . . I rec<sup>d</sup>. your several letters and beg to be excus'd in not answering them, which I should have done before now, but wanted to have had it in my [ability?] to have wrote you respecting the mode of Settling your accounts and expected to have seen Col<sup>o</sup>. Pettit once more on the subject, but Business would not permit my leaving the County. You will perceive by his Instructions enclos'd you some time ago that our accounts aynt held in the same light as those of the Line and that with the Cloathing furnished, and the several Resolves passed respecting the pay of the Staff department, seems to signify as if they were to be settled agreeable to those different Salleries established by Congress, at least I take it so from Col<sup>o</sup>. Pettits Letter. I have not had it in my power to make any settlements for any of the Old Accounts, nor was there any Cash to be procured towards paying them . . . I will contrive to go to Philad<sup>a</sup>. again very shortly, to have something done in the matter one way or other. Give my respects to peter, and if he has rec<sup>d</sup>. anything in the Cash or Cloathing way, to furnish me also with an account, and the time he came to the Store. I havent time to write Mr. King now, but remember me to him likewise and family — pray let me know what number of wafers you rec<sup>d</sup>. I sent you two Boxes at two separate times. Let me hear the news stirring at Camp, and remember me to every friend and old acquaintance from

Sir your friend and Hum Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Jacob Weiss ADQM

Christ. Meng Esq.

Easton July 1<sup>st</sup>. 1781

Sir,

Your favor by Mr. Black with one hundred and forty dollars specie came to hand safe for which I have receipted and shall be carefull to lay it out as you request. I made shift to forward two droves of Horses to Camp the last were 33 on the 27<sup>th</sup> Ultimo which I had collected on purpose to send off before yours p. Mr.



Gray had come to hand. I received yours also of the 16th ultimo by way of Mr. Miles from Reading with two Teams loaded with Quarter Master Stores and have forwarded them with such part of mine on hand as you were pleased to order copy of which you have inclosed.

Sometime in the Winter the Lieut<sup>t</sup>. of this County made a request of 4 Horses to be furnished the QM<sup>r</sup>. of the Militia on the Frontiers of this County, they are still out in Service and kept for the purpose of carrying Provisions &c to their several posts, pray will it be proper for me to comply with the Lieutenants order in future on such like occasions. I should not have let the horses gone but having no use for them at that time, and promising to return them in good order, induced me to let them go. I mean to recall them immediately. I shall make out Estimate for what Cash may be necessary as you mention. Much depends on the supplies to come, at present there aynt above 60 Bbbs Flour on hand.<sup>38</sup> I have some Forage still to forward and there is a likelihood of a considerable quantity to come in. I have hitherto made shift to send on the supplies from time to time since my appointment in this County, and of course have a considerable of Team hire to pay for, with Forage and Pasturage Accounts together since last fall, and some Accounts for workmanship, those Amounts I shall endeavour to obtain as near to former prices as possible and make you out an Estimate if possible to have the same Settled if in your power — I am with much respect

Sir Your Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss

To Col. Samuel Miles

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<sup>38</sup> On October 2, 1778, Congress had taken action against the grain and flour speculators who were responsible for diverting those necessities from the army stores: "Whereas the scantiness of crops of wheat and other grain in the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania[sic], Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, and the wicked arts of speculators, forestallers, and engrossers, who infest every quarter of the country, and are industriously purchasing up grain and flour at the most exorbitant prices, render it impracticable to obtain timely and sufficient supplies for the operations of the army and navy, unless the most vigorous measures are, without delay, adopted, to restrain practices so destructive of the public weal:

*Resolved*, that it be earnestly recommended to the legislative, or where vested with sufficient power, to the executive authorities of the states above mentioned, to authorize and direct any civil magistrate within their respective jurisdictions, on an information given by the commissary or quarter master general, or by the deputy commissary or quarter master general of the respective districts, of an extraordinary quantity of grain or flour being purchased and in the possession of individuals, forthwith to issue his warrant empowering the informant to seize the same for the public use, paying for the same such prices as may to the respective legislatures appear proper, . . . not exceeding six dollars per hundred for flour, and in proportion for grain, . . ." (*Journals of the Continental Congress*, Vol. XII, p. 974)





[The above letter was again copied into the letterbook on pages 232 and 233. The duplication affords an interesting opportunity to compare accuracy and punctuation in the entries Weiss made.]

Easton 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1781

Sir,

Captain Kemper inform'd me when here that the Cannon carriages were much wanted in the park at Camp and that Gen<sup>l</sup>. Knox requested the same might be forwarded, have therefore sent under the care of John Charles waggoner one of them. He may proceed to New Windsor if you think proper and find he is able to go on. He has drawn Six days Rations and Forage from this date. Should he proceed please to direct the carriage to Cap<sup>t</sup>. Baxter How Quarter Master to Brigade of artil<sup>y</sup>. with a few lines that the waggoner ayn't detained, and that he may be furnished with Rations & Forage from the 8 of July. I sent on a few days ago a Carriage of the same size which was left three miles this side of the Moravian Settlem<sup>t</sup>. in Jersey. The waggoner inform'd me that the shafts broke, which occasioned him to return. I have wrote Mr. Culvert at the Moravian Mills to have them repaired, for which you will please to pay him, should he present the account of expence. There is gears for four horses as p Receipt enclos'd, and would advise your sending six horses to get the same to Camp.

I am your friend & Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J.W.

Tho<sup>s</sup>. Anderson esq. ADQM

Easton 3 July 1781

D<sup>r</sup>. Sir,

I make free still to trouble you. One of my waggoners with a Cannon carriage intended for Camp was so unlucky as to have the shafts broke within three miles of your village which occasioned him to return with his horses. I have herewith wrote M<sup>r</sup>. Anderson Q.M. at Sussex Court house of the carriage being in your neighbourhood, and that I should request the favour of you to have it repaired, which I could wish you please to have done, as the Carriage is much wanted at Camp. I have requested him to pay you the expence that may attend the same, which if it should not be in his power to do, you may only enclose me the account and I will send it you in specie, observe to have it done on the most reasonabl<sup>st</sup> terms you possibly can and you'll greatly oblige

Sir your very Hum<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

M<sup>r</sup>. E. Culvert



Easton July 4: 1781

Sir

I herewith inclose you an account paid Frederick Reeger by order of Doctor Ladlie Deputy Commissary of Prisoners which amount I should be glad you would please to transmit me by first safe opportunity — I had charged the same in my Account of Disbursements against the Quarter Master Generals Department but Colonel Miles informs me that you'll have to pay it for which purpose I transmit you Copy of said Account.

I have likewise a favor to request in behalf of the Reverend Mr. Etwine of Bethlehem for a Packet directed for the Brethren from Germany which lays at New York. Pray cant you by some means procure it so as to send it me by some suitable opportunity. I supposed you to be the most proper Person to apply to on such an Occasion and by calling or sending to the Reverend Mr. Shaukirk Moravian Minister in York in behalf of the Brethren at Bethlehem it will be delivered, and reasonable expences will be paid attending the getting it, and be greatly acknowledged by Mr. Etwine, in whose behalf I have taken the freedom to write you, which you'll please to excuse and any services that I may be able to render you shall do with pleasure —

I am with much Respect  
Sir Your Very Humb. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss

Colonel Abraham Skinner  
CG Prisoners

Easton 6 July 1781

Sir,

I wrote you on the 14<sup>th</sup> ultimo by Lieut. Mytinger of Light Dragoons &. The great need of horses just now wanted in the army, obliges me to write to you by Mr. Reeger for those remaining under your care, that they may be sent on to Camp. I should have been very happy if it had suited me to have come up on account of the horses but hurry of Business will not permit me as yet. The operations going forward in the army require my constant attendance at home. I inclose you a form agreeable to which you will make me out some kind of an Estimate, of what Forage might have been furnished the horses, that I may fall upon a method of having it settled with Col<sup>l</sup>. Deshler, provided I should not obtain money so immediately to discharge the accounts. You may be perfectly easy that I shall see to have them settled as quick as Possible, knowing the disagreeable situation that you, and every other person serving the public, must now Labour under, by the





defects of former Accounts not being paid. Still it is our indispensable duty to be doing all that we possibly can, in support of our Cause and Army. You can forward me the Return at any time when convenient, and am Sir with much Respect

Your Very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

Jacob Weiss ADQM

Peter Trexler Esq.<sup>39</sup>

[The broken cannon carriage referred to in his letter on July 3 was repaired at the Moravian settlement in a hurry as he had requested. In his letter of July 7th he informed Thomas Anderson as follows:]

. . . John Horn will deliver you a quantity of Corn and the two hind wheels of one carriage and Axletree. The Carriage left this side of the Moravian Mills I could wish you to send for — John Horn will inform you where it was left with Geers for four horses . . .

Easton 18<sup>th</sup> July 1781

Sir,

I want to have the accounts for Boating closed as quick as possible — your account says seventeen men 12 days employed and 3 men 13 days. It will be necessary for me to have Receipts from each Person so as to have the account framed in the manner of a pay roll, to distinguish the Contingent expences from that of mens wages — when these Receipts are taken, you can call, and we will try to make a final Settlement, — there can be no expences allowed attending the Boats on their way down and up, what Rations and Liquor may be due on the occasion can readily be Settled with the Commisary Mr. Anderson at this place.

I am Sir,

Your Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Mr. William White

---

<sup>39</sup> The great, great, great grandfather of General Harry C. Trexler.



Easton July 18, 1781

Sir

You'll perceive by the inclose that Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Potts and Downing has Contracted with Major Hodgdon at Philadelphia for all the Pig Metal in this Neighbourhood belonging to the public, for which purpose could wish to know what you have already Received towards said Contract made-between you and him some time ago.

The Iron made or when drawn you'll please to deliver to Mess<sup>rs</sup>. Potts and Downing, or their order taking duplicate Receipts, one of which you'll please to transmit me.

Yours with much Respect

J. Weiss ADQM

To Mr. Richard Backhouse <sup>40</sup>

Easton July 24, 1781

Sir,

I received yours this day of the 7th Inst. p. favour Mr. Thomas, it appears by his Return that he has purchased and found for the public horses under his care one hundred and eighteen Bushels Oats, Seven Bushels Rye and Seven Tons eleven hundred weight of hay. He also forwarded two Ton two hundred weight in March last for the use of this post for which receipts were given agreeable to the dates specified in Return. You'll please to pay him the Balance due for which he is to produce you proper Vouchers.

I could wish the people were paid for keeping the horses while under the direction of Mr. Thomas and Foulk. Let the accounts be estimated and settled agreeable to Colonel Miles Instructions last Winter for the horses sent from Philad<sup>a</sup>. As there will be a probability of your settling those accounts in the old way I suppose that two dollars for a horse p. month in real specie will be as near the mark as the Resolves of Congress will allow for Forage to be furnished. Indeed I should think that ten shillings p. Month might be sufficient where horses have not been carefully fed of which you'll have it in your power to judge on inquiry made with Mr. Thomas and Foulk respecting their keeping.

Some of the horses were afterwards pastured by Mr. Thomas you'll also please to pay at the rate of 2/6<sup>d</sup>. specie p. week and keep a separate account of that from the Forage furnished as I suppose I shall have to repay it and take your Receipts provided hard money is to be obtained of the public for such purposes.

I am Sir

Your Humble Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

To William McCalla Esq.

<sup>40</sup> Backhouse was manager of the Durham Iron Works at the time. Ten years earlier he had been granted a tavern license in Allentown.





Easton Augt. 13th 1781

Sir

I received yours of the 9th Instant respecting the Building, which in the Return of public property made by Colonel Hooper late DQMGeneral on my arrival in this County was said to be one of sd Buildings erected on a lot of Mr. McLins adjoining his stone Barn, or Stable, which I requested Mr. Deshler to have taken down and sent to this Post for public Use — there is but a part of it here and the View I had in ordering it down, was to have it erected for the use of a Forage Store, of which I was much in need at that time, but Mr. Deshler not sending me the remainder prevented my getting it fixed for the purpose. My appointment as an ADQM in this County authorized me to make such necessary alterations, as may appear needful in this department — a Forage Store was much wanted at this place, and as that was standing Idol and easily to be removed I concluded upon having it done in Regard to any arrears for Ground Rent I should have concluded that Colonel Hooper had made Restitution either by Certificates or the like mode there was no Account Rendered me of Pay due any person in the old Department. Should it be in my power to serve Mrs. Allen<sup>41</sup> I should be very happy in doing it and am Sir with Respect

Your Very Humble Servt.

J. Weiss

John Lawrence Esq.

Easton August 15 th 1781

Sir

Mr. Wright the bearer of this has served with me as a Clerk since last September and is now anxious for going home — he has a Journey to make about two hundred Miles, from this place and will require the Ballance of his Account which amounts to £ 32. 6 s. and for which I have drawn an order on you, in hopes you'll discharge it, he has something considerable to Receive from the late department and cant obtain any part of his Wages, which makes his case very hard. If you possibly can oblige him I shall esteem it a very particular favour — his acct. is Settled at the Rate of £ 10 p. month specie from the first of March last to this day,

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<sup>41</sup> Her husband, James Allen, builder of Trout Hall, had died in 1778. She was Elizabeth, the daughter of John Lawrence, to whom Weiss addressed this letter. The widow and her father were evidently living in Trout Hall, Allentown, at the time.



and I was under the Necessity of letting him have a public horse to carry him home, which was Valued by two freeholders, and is charg'd in his Account — in hopes of your assistance I remain —

Sir your most Ob<sup>t</sup>. Humb<sup>l</sup>. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss

Colonel Sam<sup>l</sup>. Miles  
DQMG

[No letters appear in the letterbook between August 15th and November 30, 1781. Two blank pages were undoubtedly reserved for entries but were never made.]

Easton November 30, 1781

Sir,

Agreeable to your directions I held two public Sales of the Buildings and Stores at Allentown, and Bethlehem, Copies of which I shall transmit you with the Quarters — I have also forwarded Six Stoves to Colonel Neilson (as many as one Team can cleverly take in a Load) and have just Received a Letter from Mr. Thomas Anderson, one of Colonel Neilsons Assistants from Sussex, that there will be a Number of Horses from the Eastern Army, to come by way of Morristown for this post, to be wintered in the back parts of this State. Should be glad to know if you would have them forwarded to any other post, when they arrive, or if they are to remain in this County, by Mr. Andersons Letter I may expect twelve during the course of next week, and the others shortly afterwards, should I not hear from you before they arrive, will see to have them put out among the farmers, untill I can know your mind, there is still a number of People unpaid for Forage furnished the Horses last winter, and for wintering them, which will make some difficulty, however if there was any prospect of assuring them payment when the Horses are to be taken away, I believe I might readily get a Number put out this Winter, and will in hopes you'll be enabled to furnish me with Money by the time I arrive with my Accounts.

I am with much Respect

Sir your very Hum. Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. Weiss ADQM

Colonel Samuel Miles  
DQM





Easton Decem<sup>r</sup>. 8, 1781

Sir

The Public Horses under your care I have to Request may be put out to Winter So as to have them in good order and fit for Service, by the first of March next, or sooner if required, I shall rely on your putting them out on the best and Cheapest terms in your power, I suppose they might be wintered for three pounds Specie each horse, you may engage those persons with whom they are to be wintered to Receive their pay before the Horses are delivered —

Sir yours &c

JWeiss  
ADQM

To Mr. Leonard Bidleman

[The page on which this last letter was entered was partly torn out of the letter book. Several pages following were also torn out completely. However, from the blank appearance of the back of the page on which the above letter was written, it is evident no other letters were entered.]



## In Memoriam

### CALVIN E. ARNER

A practicing attorney in the Lehigh County Courts for more than sixty years, Calvin E. Arner died November 18, 1954. He was a native of New Mahoning, Carbon County, born October 7, 1869, a son of John H. and Mary Ann (Wehr) Arner. A graduate of Franklin and Marshall College, Class of 1890, he studied law under Judge Edward Harvey and was admitted to the bar in 1893. From 1906 to 1912 he served as a common councilman; later, 1913-1914, he was a member of the first city council under the commission form of government. He was also the first superintendent of accounts and finance. In 1936 he was named city solicitor and served as solicitor for the Second National Bank. His wife, the former Clara K. Kistler, preceded him in death in 1953. A sister Mrs. Minnie P. Pascoe, preceded him in death. There survived a sister, Luella E., wife of George D. Sell.

### JENNIE A. BITTENBENDER

Teacher in the Allentown Public Schools for thirty-nine years and a former principal of the Garfield School, Miss Bittenbender, born May 20, 1877, died November 21, 1955. She was born in Seisholtzville, Berks County, daughter of Jacob R. and Emma (Treichler) Bittenbender. She was a member of Salem Evangelical Reformed Church. Legatees under her will were seven religious, charitable and educational institutions, most of them in Allentown.

### CLINTON J. BLOSS

Born in Slatedale, son of Henry W. and Elvera (Kern) Bloss, Clinton J. Bloss died November 19, 1951, aged 70. He was a retired engineer, Fuller-Lehigh Company. He graduated from Lehigh University, Class of 1904; a member of the Masons, Lehigh Consistory; and the Reformed Church of Slatedale, Pa. His wife Anna (Edwards) Bloss survived him, as did two sons, Henry C., York, Pa., and David W., Philadelphia; two daughters, Elizabeth and Rachel; and two sisters, Mrs. Lillie T. Balliet and Mrs. Carrie A. Brown.





## JOHN BOWEN

Executive Vice-president of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, John Bowen was born in Allentown, son of Arthur R. and Anna M. (Deifer) Bowen, and died January 19, 1954, aged 62. After graduation from the local high school in 1911, he joined Lehigh Portland as a clerk and devoted the remainder of his life to the cement industry. He was also President of the Pennsylvania Supply Company, Harrisburg, and of the High Spire Sand and Gravel Co. He was a Lutheran, and a member of the Livingston Club, as well as of the Lehigh Country Club. He was married to the former Mrs. Catherine Bornn of New York City. She survived him. A sister, Anne (Mrs. S. G. Wetzel), of Washington, D.C., also survived. He was married twice, first to Edna A. Seiberling.

## J. EDWARD DURHAM, JR.

A prominent industrialist and sportsman, J. Edward Durham, Jr., died January 15, 1955, at his home, Skew Farm, Old Zionsville, Lehigh County. Born 1883 at Williamsport, son of the late J. Edward and Nellie (Stranahan) Durham, after graduation from Princeton University, he became associated with his brother, Fred, in the operation of the Bonney Forge and Tool Works, Allentown, Pa. With their brother-in-law, Arthur J. Male, they developed one of the nation's leading producers of high-grade mechanic's tools. Mr. Durham had many interests: member of the Bach Choir, photographer, fisherman, hunter, member of the Livingston Club, Lehigh Country Club, the Masons, Sons of the American Revolution, Honorary First Defenders, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Presbyterian Church, and the Newcomen Society. He is survived by his wife, Hannah Young Durham; a sister, Mrs. Arthur J. Male; and two nephews, Fred S. Durham, Jr., and Edward D. Male.

## JOHN G. EDDY

Born in Wilkes-Barre, a son of John and Mary (Tredinnick) Eddy, a resident of Greenawalds, Lehigh County, John G. Eddy died December 10, 1953, aged 76. He served South Whitehall township as assessor, was a member of Asbury Methodist Church, the Masons, Lehigh Consistory, and the I.O.O.F. For twenty years he directed the Christian Endeavor Chorus and was a composer of several hymns. Survivors: his wife, Leuella A. (Strauss) Eddy; a son, John P., of Allentown; a daughter Janice E. (Mrs. Jack Sanders), of Bethlehem; a brother, James, Rainbow Lakes, N. J.; and three sisters, Mrs. Arthur Rice, Miss Laurette Eddy, and Mrs. Ida Bennett.



## WILLIAM A. GIBSON

Born in Detroit, the son of William and Catharine (Farlinger) Gibson, William A. Gibson died July 27, 1953, aged 68. He was managing director of Allentown Bradley Pulverizing Company, which he served for over forty years. Active in civic and charitable organizations in Allentown, he served as a school director, 1926-1931. He originated the Christmas Basket Fund of the Family Welfare Society. He was a Mason, member of the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and a director on the board of the Allentown Art Museum. Survivors: his wife Huldah (Lippert) Gibson and a son William A., Jr., of Allentown.

## FRANCIS J. GILDNER

Allentown lawyer and civic worker for more than fifty years, Francis J. Gildner died March 29, 1955. He was born in the village of New Tripoli, Lehigh County, October 22, 1875, a son of Elias K. and Louisa (Snyder) Gildner. After graduation from Ursinus College, Class of 1900, he joined the law office of Marcus C. L. Kline, then a member of Congress. Later he and Malcolm W. Gross, Mayor of Allentown for several terms, established joint offices in the practice of law.

Mr. Gildner served as solicitor to the county commissioners, president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Community Chest, helped to establish the Merchants National Bank, the Community Concerts Association, and the Allentown Dairy. Ursinus College conferred upon him the honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1952. He was a member of Christ Lutheran Church. His wife was the late Ida M. (Smith) Gildner. A daughter, Loreno, and a sister, Laura, Mrs. Fred S. Sittler, survived him.

## CHARLES F. GULDIN

Clerk of the Orphans Court of Lehigh County for over twenty years and Recorder of Deeds for two terms prior to that, Charles F. Guldin died March 18, 1953, aged 62. Born in Greenwich township, Berks County, son of Reuben G. and Ellen Amanda (Reinhart) Guldin, he graduated from the Keystone Normal School, Kutztown, Class of 1910, after which he taught school in Lower Macungie and Emmaus. During World War I he served overseas with the 314th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division. He served his Masonic Lodge, Trexlertown, for many years; was a charter member of Lentz American Legion Post. Survivors: his wife Hallie S. (Bastian) Guldin; a daughter Katherine B., and a sister, Edna L. (Mrs. Josiah Laudenschlager), of Emmaus.





## ANDREW P. HACHTMANN

Retired consulting engineer, metallurgist and cement expert, Andrew P. Hachtmann, died June 12, 1955, a son of Andrew P. and Albertina (Lang) Hachtmann. A graduate of Cooper Institute, New York, he came to Allentown in 1900 to join the Atlas Portland Cement Co.; later represented the Fuller Engineering Co. in London, Paris and Lisbon. He built cement manufacturing plants in New York and Pennsylvania, in the South and West, and in South and Central America.

He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Allentown, and formerly active in Masonry. He was the husband of the late Laura (Grubb) Hachtmann. Two brothers survived him: Mansweth, Dobbs Ferry, N. Y., and Julius M., Bayside, N. Y.

## FLORENCE RICE HESS

Florence Rice Hess, widow of Max Hess, co-founder of Hess Brothers department store in Allentown, died November 28, 1955, a daughter of M.M. and Hannah (Livingston) Rice. She was born in Slatington, Pa. "A quiet and gracious person, her benefactions and activities for her home community were as well known as the department store her husband founded . . ." She served as vice president of the store. Among her many interests were the Family Service, the Children's Aid Society, and the Lehigh Valley Guidance Clinic. Her son, Max Hess, Jr. and his three children survived. Also surviving were a niece, Mrs. David G. Williams, three great-nephews, David G. and Howard Williams, and John Bottenfield; and a great-niece, Mrs. John Wharton.

## MRS. FRANCIS KLECKNER

Millie (Seler) Kleckner, widow of Allentown realtor Francis Kleckner, died October 30, 1955, aged 84. She was born September 19, 1877, in Allentown, the daughter of Charles and Agnes (Doering) Seler. She was a member of the Woman's Club and the Muhlenberg College Auxiliary. Survivors: sons, Attorney Robert G. Kleckner and Dr. Martin S. Kleckner; four grandsons and a granddaughter.

## SAMUEL H. KRESS

Founder and chairman of the board of S. H. Kress Company, contributor of twenty-six valuable works of art to the Allentown Art Museum, 375 paintings and eighteen pieces of sculpture to the National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress, internationally known art collector, philanthropist, died September 22, 1955. He was born July 23, 1863, near Cherryville, Northampton county, the son of John Franklin and Margaret D. (Connor) Kress. At age



seventeen he became a school teacher. At twenty-four he entered on his fabulous store-ownership career. He presented six stained glass windows to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown. He was a Lutheran, a Mason, and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; a trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, of the National Gallery of Art, and the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation. He died in New York City.

#### WINFIELD S. LUTZ

Born in Slateville, April 16, 1881, a son of James L. and Mary C. (Kemp) Lutz, Winfield S. Lutz died April 17, 1954. He was a retired superintendent of a machine shop of the Mack Manufacturing Co., where he had been employed for forty-two years. He was a member of the Jacksonville E-R Church, Jordan Lodge, F and AM, Allen Commandery, and the Knights Templar Association. He was survived by his mother; two sisters, Elsie (Mrs. George Warmkessel), and Mrs. Beulah Strauss; a brother, Joseph; and a niece, Mrs. Dorothy Kohler, all of Allentown.

#### WINFIELD S. H. ROPER

Civil Engineer for Trojan Powder Company for thirty-eight years, the son of Attorney David D. Roper and Amy C. Kiernakhan, Winfield Roper died January 18, 1954, aged 73. He resided in Slatington, Pa.; was a graduate of Lafayette College, Class of 1902; member of Phi Delta Theta; and of the college football and track teams. He organized the first Slatington High School football team in 1896. Later refereed football games and was Slatington's first basketball referee. He was survived by his wife, Viola (Roberts) Roper; a daughter, Dorothy, of Arlington, N. J.; and two sons, Donald, Bethlehem, Pa., and Winfield, Jr., of Walnutport.

#### WILLIAM D. SCHANTZ

Born in Allentown, December 31, 1879, a son of Charles O. Schantz and Amanda Klein, William D. Schantz died May 2, 1954. He was president of The Schantz Company, furniture and cabinet-making firm. Survivors: a son, David L.; two brothers, Charles O., South Bend, Indiana, and Robert K., of Allentown. His wife, Helen Laury, preceded him in death.

#### MRS. JOHN S. SEFING

The former Sallie R. A. Frederick, widow of the late John S. Sefing, died September 7, 1954, aged 80. She was born in Allentown, the daughter of Benneville F. and Sarah C. (Ritter) Frederick. She had operated the Allentown Transfer business, organized by her





husband in 1906. Charter member of Christ Lutheran Church and the Muhlenberg College and Good Shepherd Home Auxiliaries. Survivors were two sons; Frederick G., Cranford, N. J., Paul F., Allentown, and a daughter, Kathryn S. (Mrs. Maurice D. Geiger, Sr.)

### JOHN J. SHONK

Born April 6, 1878, in Luzerne County, a son of Albert and Sarah (Hershberger) Shonk, John J. Shonk, prominent Bethlehem realtor and insurance agent, died February 7, 1955. He was affiliated with the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Lehigh University; Bethlehem chapter of the Honorary First Defenders; the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States; Bethlehem Real Estate Board; member of the Board of Trustees of Moravian College. He had enlisted as a private in the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1897; was awarded the Purple Heart during World War I; and commissioned a captain in 1916. Member of Moravian Church. Surviving were his wife, Gertrude (Fink) Shonk, two daughters, Mrs. John P. Meyers and Mrs. Francis J. Eline, both of Bethlehem, Pa.

### LAURA V. SNYDER

For thirty-eight years a teacher in the Allentown schools, Miss Laura V. Snyder died July 8, 1955. She had retired in 1938. Born in Center Valley, Lehigh County, in 1870, a daughter of William H. and Hannah (Solliday) Snyder, she lived in Allentown since 1897. She began her career at a country school in Lanark, later returning to Center Valley and then to North Wales. Miss Snyder was a member of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A sister, Ida A., and several cousins survived her.

### GEORGE BYRON SUMMERS

Historian and ardent student of American Indian life and folklore, George Byron Summers, born 1892, died November 25, 1955. He was born in Green Lane, a son of Henry A. and Emma C. (Blanck) Summers. He had a particular fondness for the Unami Indians, following their trails, and collecting relics. For a time, he lived with the Nanticoke Indians in southern Delaware; roamed with the Cherokees in the Great Smokies; and camped extensively in our national forests.

During his last six years he served as Zionsville postmaster and store operator; had served four years with the Navy in postal work during World War I; and published a family history, *The Summers in Pennsylvania*. He was a member of many historical societies in the state; the Masons; the Swiss Society of the Lehigh Valley; and the American Legion. He was survived by his wife, Elsie C. (Breisch) Summers; a sister, Mrs. Lorain C. Lowell, Bethlehem; and a nephew, George E. Lowell.



## ROBERT E. P. YODER

President of The William H. Taylor Company, industrial supply house, Robert E. P. Yoder died December 14, 1955, aged 61. He was a native of Salisbury township, son of J. Milton and Mary A. E. (Moyer) Yoder. He married Elizabeth Martin. After graduation from Franklin and Marshall College, he served as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry. For thirty years he took an active part in the campaign for civic improvement in Allentown; member of the Elks Club, the F. & A. M., and the Engineers Club of the Lehigh Valley. He was survived by a daughter, Betty Jane (Mrs. Roy W. Peterson).

JOSEPH BRUNNER

JOHN R. CAWLING

MISS ALICE GAUMER

MRS. ROBERT M. GUTH

MRS. STANLEY J. HELLER

GEORGE SNYDER





## Accessions, 1954, 1955

### LIBRARY

- "Abschied," 1733, ms., to John Lichtenwaller. From Clifford Bartholomew.
- Acts of Assembly Relating to the Management of Boroughs . . . and Ordinances of the Borough of West Bethlehem, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, also List of Councilmen since the Incorporation of the Borough*, 262 pp., cloth, Eagle Printing House, West Bethlehem, 1903. From Wilbur L. King.
- Bank notes (4), Allentown, Civil War period. From Ario P. Reinert.
- Baptismal and confirmation certificates. From Mr. and Mrs. Horace O. Beebe.
- Birth, confirmation, and marriage records, 2 vols., of Rev. Edwin J. Fogel. From Miss Minnie Fogel.\*
- Buffington and Barba, *Pennsylvania-German Grammar*. From Dr. Preston A. Barba.
- Child's Bible, 1834. From M. J. Boyer.
- Coplay Echoes*, periodical, collection of miscellaneous issues. From William S. Troxell.
- Das heilige Vaterunser*, n.d., Allentown imprint, Brobst, Diehl & Co. From Edward W. Zimmerman.
- DeChant, Alliene S., *Of the Dutch I Sing*, 1951. From Edward W. Zimmerman.
- Deed (1806) Daniel Shirer to Peter Wotring; drafts (2) of Nicholas "Hartsoak's" land (1773, 1779). From Elmer Brown, Ironton.
- Deeds (16) and two land drafts. From Arthur G. Rauch.
- Deeds (18) and miscellaneous papers. From Mrs. Frank Cooper.
- Eisenhart, *A History of Abbottstown*. From author.
- Folklore Americano*, Vol. 1, No. 1, Lima, Peru, 1953. From Pan-American Institute of Geography and History.
- Haller, Mabel, *Early Moravian Education*. By purchase.
- Incidents of the Freshet on the Lehigh River, 1802*. From Miss Jane Bachman.
- McNair, James B., *Simon Cameron's Adventure in Iron, 1837-1846*. From author.

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\* This insertion is to correct an error appearing in *Proceedings*, Vol. XX, p. 162.



- McNair, James B., *With Rod and Transit; the engineering career of Thomas S. McNair, 1824-1901*. From author.
- MacNeal, Rev. George D., *History of Cedar Church, 100th Anniversary*. From author.
- Marriage licenses (2) signed by Rev. Frederick Schmidt, German Lutheran Congregation, Philadelphia (1788, 1808); Frates and Heimes family birth records (1760-1850). From Ezra E. Fetzer.
- Newspapers — *The Daily News Digest* (Allentown), the last two numbers issued.
- The Northampton Traveler* (Vol. 1, Nos. 1-5); *Lehigh Valley Traveler* (Vol. 1, Nos. 6-8), 1954 cpl. Monthly changed to quarterly. From Mrs. Rachel deRosset.
- "Oath of Allegiance" to Henry Dauber, signed by Peter Rhoads, 1786. From Samuel D. Frederick, Esq.
- Ohl, Albert, *History of Southern Lehigh County, 1732-1947*; in two parts, "History of Upper Saucon Township, also Centre Valley as I found it 75 Years ago," and "History of the Milfords, Upper and Lower." Photostat copy, pp. 153, 73. By purchase.
- Pennsylvania Health and Listening Post* (1926-1935), eight bound volumes. From M. J. Boyer.
- Photograph albums (5 vols.). From Mr. and Mrs. Morris D. Farr.
- Photograph, Hamilton Street, looking east, 1862. From Samuel R. Engleman, Philadelphia.
- Prothonotary's notice to Martin Himes, et al., to appear before William Tilghman, Chief Justice (1817). From Ezra E. Fetzer.
- Reichard, Harry H. and Ida, *History of Salem Reformed Church*. From authors.
- Scrap book on Pennsylvania, decorated plywood board covers. From Miss Ruth M. Kistler.
- Shoemaker, Benjamin H. 3d, and Robert Kay, *Shoemaker Pioneers, a Guide to the Shoemaker Families of Colonial America*, 1955. From authors.
- Sipple, Rev. Simon, *History of Zion Reformed Church*. From author.
- Stair, J. William, *Brick-End Barns*, pamphlet. From author.
- Supplement to the Kichlines in America*, 11 pp. typed. From Mrs. Marian R. Hart.
- Sypher, *School History of Pennsylvania*, 1869. From Harry J. German, Philadelphia.
- Tax receipts and invoices (15), including a still license (1798). David Daubert papers. From Samuel D. Frederick, Esq.





- Upper Lehigh County Directory*, 1954. From Roy Wotring.
- Wehr, A. Franklin, *Bi-centennial of New Gnaden Huetten (Weissport) and the Restoration of the Benjamin Franklin Well*, souvenir program. From author.
- Weiser, R., *Regina, the German Captive, or, True Piety Among the Lowly*. From M. J. Boyer.
- Whiffen, *Stuart and Georgian Churches, 1603-1837*. From M. J. Boyer.
- The York County Academy*. From the York County Historical Society.

## MUSEUM

- Baby carriage, buggy type; a small pistol; and a wooden pitchfork. From Elmer R. Willitts, Fullerton, Pa.
- Bookcase, two-section, height nine feet (refinished at cost to the Society of \$152). From the County of Lehigh.
- Chest, wooden; two flails; a Civil War stretcher for wounded. From Mrs. Harvey Steckel.
- Civil War drum. From Earl Willenbecker.
- Commemorative ribbons: Jeffersonian Temperance Society, President Polk funeral procession (1849), Lafayette mourning ribbon. From Samuel D. Frederick, Esq.
- Cradle, automatic-rocking, David Walker patent, 1862. From Estate of Laura A. Hower.
- "Fishin' Buddy" — a locally-invented fishing rod holder. From J. Homer Bortz, inventor.
- Hearing aid, trumpet-shaped. From Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd W. Wieder.
- Lehigh Crane Iron Co. seal and photographs. From Mrs. Frances C. McFadden.
- Paintings, oil — Carl Marr's "Gossip" and six-horse, eight-man military subject (no title) by P. Philippoteaux. Donor, anonymous.
- Shotgun, shell-loading equipment. From Warren Holben.
- Sword of Capt. Edmund R. Newhard; Moore revolver, 1860; Civil War soldier's items (buckle, belt pouch, ink well, gloves, epaulets, sash and cord) worn by Capt. Newhard; a "Picture of Washington giving Description of all the Public Buildings, Grounds, etc.," 1840; a Libby Prison picture; ivory-handled seal of Peter Newhard. From E. P. Newhard.
- Table, cherry, double dropleaf (refinished by Society at cost of \$40). Donor, anonymous.



## CASH DONATIONS

City of Allentown, 1954, 1955 .....	\$2,000
County of Lehigh, 1954, 1955 .....	2,000
Heyl, John K. ....	25
Leh, G. Edward .....	25
Scheidy, Willis B. ....	5

## DONORS OF MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Bechtel Mrs. John	Romig, Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Heffner, Miss Esther	Schatz, Dr. and Mrs. William
Lotte, Mrs. Walter	Schreiber, Leon
	Troxell, William S.





## Meetings of The Society

1955

January 29: Dinner Meeting, Hotel Traylor. Address by Hon. Henry L. Snyder, "John Fries, Traitor or Patriot."

April 13: Annual Meeting, Hotel Traylor. Address by Andrew S. Berky, director of the Schwenkfelder Library, "Early Education and the Hosensack Academy." Vocal renditions by Central Junior High School Choir, directed by Miss Mae Ruhe.

October 29: Annual Pilgrimage to the Schwenkfelder Library and Museum, Pennsburg; luncheon at the Perkiomen School; to the Lutheran Church at Trappe; and to the Audubon Shrine in Montgomery County.

1956

January 12: Dinner Meeting, Hotel Traylor. Illustrated lecture by Louis J. Heizmann, "Blue Historical China, Gaudy Dutch, and Spatterware." Violin solos on the Lehigh County violin, by its maker, Prof. Oswell J. Seip.

April 21: Annual Meeting, the Elks Club. Illustrated lecture, "Living with Antiques: in Kodachrome," by William S. (Pumpnickle Bill) Tröxell. Music — Harvey Hottenstine and his music boxes.



## Membership of The Society

### LIFE MEMBERS

Allison, Mary Pardee  
 Allison, Marjorie  
 Bachman, Miss Minnie C.  
 Backenstoe, M. J. (M.D.)  
 Bayer, Russell S.  
 Billheimer, Floyd H.  
 Boyer, Melville J.  
 Crow, Mary  
 De Rosset, Rachel Brown  
 Dickenson, Walter F.  
 Glose, Gerald F.  
 Hagenbach, Allen W.  
 Hagenbach, Mrs. Allen W.  
 Hemmer, Mrs. Grover  
 Hoch, Charles H.  
 Huber, Charles L.  
 Huber, Mrs. Charles L.  
 Kleckner, Robert G. (Esq.)  
 Kline, Charles  
 McCready, Horace E.  
 Metzger, Owen W.  
 Peifly, Sydney  
 Samuels, III, Abram  
 Scheidy, Willis B.  
 Semmel, Mrs. Ralph  
 Snyder, Carl D.  
 Starner, Bertha Mae  
 Steckel, William A.  
 Trexler, J. Peter  
 Trexler, Robert W.  
 Wagner, Herbert B.  
 Walters, Wellington W.  
 Wieand, Paul R.  
 Wieder, Lloyd W.  
 Wieder, Mrs. Lloyd W.  
 Yundt, George F.

### HONORARY

#### LIFE MEMBERS

Beebe, Horace O.  
 King, Wilbur L.

Leibenguth, Albert  
 Pretz, Reuben C.  
 Seip, Oswald J.  
 Wilcox, William J. (Esq.)

### ANNUAL MEMBERS

Abbott, John H. (M.D.)  
 Abbott, Richard A. (Esq.)  
 Adams, Earl T.  
 Albright, John H.  
 Albright, Josiah G.  
 Albright, Mrs. Mame W.  
 Alsover, William L.  
 Anewalt, Paul F.  
 Anewalt, Mrs. Paul F.  
 Arvay, Leslie  
 Austin, Annette R.

Bachman, Mrs. Ella C.  
 Bachman, Fern  
 Bachman, Herbert M.  
 Bachman, S. Jane  
 Backenstoe, G. S. (M.D.)  
 Baker, John A.  
 Barba, Preston A. (Ph.D.)  
 Barber, Aman M.  
 Bascom, W. Broughton  
 Bauman, Earl J.  
 Bausch, David K.  
 Bausch, Elmer H. (M.D.)  
 Bear, Francis G.  
 Beary, Joyce E.  
 Beazley, Russel P.  
 Beebe, Mrs. Horace O.  
 Beer, Phares G. (Rev.)  
 Benner, Nolan P.  
 Berky, Andrew S.  
 Bernhard, Miss Hannah  
 Betz, William A.  
 Binder, E. Frecl  
 Bittner, Robert E.  
 Bixler, Mrs. Frances





Bleiler, Russel S. (Dr.)  
 Bleiler, William M.  
 Blew, Harry  
 Bolez, Geza P., Jr.  
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